

By: Representative Franks

To: Conservation and Water Resources

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 803

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-58-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO CLARIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR REMOTE  
3 SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-58-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 25-58-21. (1) There is established the Mississippi  
8 Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information  
9 Systems, hereinafter referred to as the "council." The council  
10 shall set and assure enforcement of policies and standards to make  
11 it easier for remote sensing and geographic information system  
12 users around the state to share information and to facilitate  
13 cost-sharing arrangements to reduce the costs of acquiring remote  
14 sensing and geographic information system data. The council shall  
15 not oversee or regulate the activities of higher education  
16 entities where it relates to the fields of teaching or research;  
17 however, the council shall be informed of these activities for the  
18 purpose of coordinating these higher education activities with  
19 other public remote sensing and GIS initiatives to achieve the  
20 maximum benefit for the State of Mississippi and its taxpayers.

21 The council's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

22 (a) Coordination of remote sensing and geographic  
23 information system activities within Mississippi;

24 (b) Establishing policies and standards to guide  
25 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS)  
26 in the review and approval of state and local government

27 procurement of both hardware and software development relating to  
28 remote sensing and geographic information systems;

29 (c) Oversight of MDITS' implementation of these  
30 responsibilities;

31 (d) Preparing a plan, with proposed state funding  
32 priorities, for Mississippi's remote sensing and geographic  
33 information system activities, including development, operation  
34 and maintenance of the Mississippi Digital Earth Model;

35 (e) Oversight of the Mississippi Department of  
36 Environmental Quality's development and maintenance of the  
37 Mississippi Digital Earth Model, including establishing policies  
38 and standards for the procurement of remote sensing and geographic  
39 information system data by state and local governmental entities  
40 and establishing the order in which the seven (7) core data layers  
41 shall be developed;

42 (f) Designating Mississippi's official representative  
43 to the National States Geographic Information Council and to any  
44 other national or regional remote sensing or geographical  
45 information system organizations on which Mississippi has an  
46 official seat;

47 (g) Establishing and designating the members of an  
48 advisory committee made up of policy level officials from major  
49 state, local, regional and federal agencies, including, but not  
50 limited to, the National Association of Space Administration, the  
51 Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory, the Mississippi  
52 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Mississippi  
53 Public Utilities Staff, the Department of Marine Resources, the  
54 county E911 coordinator, the State Health Officer, the  
55 Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, the State Tax  
56 Commission, the Council of Consulting Engineers and the  
57 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, as well as members of the  
58 private sector;

59           (h) Creating a staff level technical users committee,  
60 in which any public or private sector entity in Mississippi  
61 interested in remote sensing and geographic information may be  
62 allowed to participate;

63           (i) Coordinating with the State Tax Commission to  
64 assure that state and local governmental entities do not have to  
65 comply with two (2) sets of requirements imposed by different  
66 organizations.

67           (2) The Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing  
68 and Geographic Information Systems will be composed of the  
69 following members:

70           (a) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
71 Department of Environmental Quality;

72           (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
73 Department of Information Technology Services;

74           (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
75 Department of Transportation;

76           (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency  
77 Management Agency;

78           (e) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
79 Development Authority;

80           (f) The Secretary of State;

81           (g) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Forestry  
82 Commission;

83           (h) The Director of the Mississippi State Board of  
84 Registered Professional Geologists;

85           (i) A representative from the Institutions of Higher  
86 Learning, appointed by the Commissioner of the Institutions of  
87 Higher Learning;

88           (j) One (1) mayor, serving a municipality, appointed by  
89 the Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal League;

90           (k) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal  
91 League or his designee who will serve as the member;

92 (1) One (1) county supervisor appointed by the  
93 Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors;

94 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
95 Association of Supervisors or his designee who will serve as the  
96 member;

97 (n) A member of the Tax Assessors/Collectors  
98 Association, to be appointed by the president of that association;

99 (o) A representative of the Planning and Development  
100 Districts, appointed by the Governor;

101 (p) A Senator, as a nonvoting member, appointed by the  
102 Lieutenant Governor; \* \* \*

103 (q) A Representative, as a nonvoting member, appointed  
104 by the Speaker of the House; and

105 (r) A member of the Mississippi Association of  
106 Professional Surveyors, appointed by the president of said  
107 association.

108 The members of the council shall serve for a term concurrent  
109 with their service as an elected or appointed official or  
110 concurrent with the term of the appointing official.

111 The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental  
112 Quality shall serve as council chair and the Executive Director of  
113 Information Technology Services as vice chair for the first two  
114 (2) years. After the first two (2) years, the council shall elect  
115 from its members a chair and vice chair, for terms to be specified  
116 by the council.

117 With regard to the designee chosen by the Executive Director  
118 of the Mississippi Municipal League or the Executive Director of  
119 the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, the designee shall  
120 become a permanent member of the council for a term concurrent  
121 with the term of the appointing executive director.

122 (3) At the direction of the chairman of the council and  
123 contingent upon the availability of sufficient funds, each member  
124 may receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses, including

125 travel expenses in accordance with rates established pursuant to  
126 Section 25-3-41, incurred in attending meetings of the council.  
127 Any member of the council who is also a state employee may not  
128 receive per diem compensation for attending meetings of the study  
129 committee, but may be reimbursed in accordance with Section  
130 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the  
131 performance of the duties, if authorized by vote, at a meeting of  
132 the council, which action must be recorded in the official minutes  
133 of the meeting. Legislative members of the council will be paid  
134 from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in  
135 the same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the  
136 Legislature is not in session.

137 (4) The council may accept money from any source, public or  
138 private, to be expended in implementing the duties under this  
139 section.

140 (5) The council may utilize staff employed by the agencies  
141 affected by this section and any other assistance made available  
142 to it.

143 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
144 and after July 1, 2006.