

By: Representative Franks

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 803
(As Sent to Governor)

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 (l) 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;

105 (r) A county surveyor who is a member of the
106 Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors, appointed by
107 the president of the association; and

108 The members listed in paragraphs (a) through (g) may appoint
109 a designee, but the designee must be the head of an office,
110 bureau, division or branch within the member's agency.

111 The members of the council shall serve for a term concurrent
112 with their service as an elected or appointed official or
113 concurrent with the term of the appointing official.

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

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

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

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

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

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