



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 551

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6647

House of Representatives, April 21, 2021

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, C. of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) There is created a
2 Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council to consult with the
3 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on matters relating to
4 (1) the coordination, procurement, processing, storage and distribution
5 of free and public geographic information systems data, and (2) the
6 powers and duties of the secretary under section 4d-90 of the general
7 statutes. In the course of such consultation, the advisory council shall
8 (A) develop (i) priorities regarding the performance of any action
9 described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, and (ii) an
10 annual five-year plan for such performance, and (B) make
11 recommendations to the secretary concerning such priorities and plan.

12 (b) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

13 (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the

14 secretary's designee;

15 (2) The Chief Data Officer, or the officer's designee;

16 (3) One representative of the Department of Energy and
17 Environmental Protection, who has expertise in geographic information
18 systems, appointed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
19 Protection;

20 (4) One representative of the Department of Transportation, who has
21 expertise in geographic information systems, appointed by the
22 Commissioner of Transportation;

23 (5) One representative of the Department of Emergency Services and
24 Public Protection, who has expertise in geographic information systems,
25 appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
26 Protection;

27 (6) One representative of the Department of Public Health, who has
28 expertise in geographic information systems, appointed by the
29 Commissioner of Public Health;

30 (7) Two representatives of different regional councils of
31 governments, who have expertise in geographic information systems,
32 including aerial imagery acquisition and the provision of geographic
33 information to municipalities, appointed by the chairperson of the
34 Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments;

35 (8) Two representatives of different municipal governments, who
36 have expertise in geographic information systems and are members of
37 the Connecticut GIS Network, appointed by the president of the
38 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

39 (9) One representative of The University of Connecticut, who has
40 experience in providing the state's geospatial information, including
41 state-wide aerial imagery and elevation, to various constituencies,
42 appointed by the president of The University of Connecticut;

43 (10) One representative of a public utility company, appointed by the
44 chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; and

45 (11) Two representatives from different private companies, neither of
46 which is a public utility company, who have expertise in mapping
47 applications for commercial purposes, one of whom is appointed jointly
48 by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
49 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and
50 development and the other of whom is appointed jointly by the ranking
51 members of said committee.

52 (c) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made not
53 later than January 1, 2022, and all subsequent appointments shall be
54 made not later than January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter. Each
55 member of the advisory council shall serve for a term of two years,
56 except that in the event of any vacancy the appointing authority shall
57 fill such vacancy for the unexpired portion of such term.

58 (d) The advisory council shall meet not later than March first
59 following any initial or subsequent appointment of its members, and
60 shall elect at such meeting a chairperson and vice-chairperson from
61 among its members. Except as provided in this subsection, all other
62 meetings of the advisory committee shall be as scheduled by the
63 chairperson.

64 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) The Secretary of the Office
65 of Policy and Management shall designate an employee of the Office of
66 Policy and Management to serve as Geographic Information Officer.
67 Such employee shall have extensive knowledge of the principles,
68 practices, terminology and trends in geographic information systems,
69 spatial data, analysis and related technology and experience in
70 administration, project management, policy development, coordination
71 of services and planning. Such employee shall (1) oversee the operations
72 of a Geographic Information Systems Office, (2) manage the staff of such
73 office, and (3) in conjunction with the Geographic Information Systems
74 Advisory Council created under section 1 of this act, establish goals for
75 such office within the scope of the powers and duties described in

76 subsection (b) of this section.

77 (b) The Geographic Information Officer shall be responsible for (1)
 78 coordinating the collection, compilation and dissemination of
 79 geographic information systems data across the state, including from
 80 and to state agencies, regional councils of governments, municipalities
 81 and other constituencies, (2) managing a geospatial data clearinghouse
 82 for public access to such information through the online repository
 83 described in subsection (i) of section 4-67p of the general statutes, (3)
 84 supporting economic development efforts in the state through the
 85 provision of such information, (4) providing training and outreach on
 86 the use of such information, (5) administering the creation and
 87 acquisition of geospatial data, including aerial imagery and elevation
 88 and parcel information, (6) adopting geospatial data standards,
 89 guidelines and procedures to ensure consistency and quality of such
 90 data, and (7) performing technical data processing to aggregate and
 91 organize existing data sets and create new data sets.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2021	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(7), "councils of governments" was changed to "regional councils of governments" for consistency.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Up to \$87,400	Up to \$174,800
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	Up to \$36,096	Up to \$72,200

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management to create a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Office, headed by GIS Officer.

It is anticipated that OPM would need to hire up to two people to staff this office, including the GIS officer. This results an annualized cost of \$247,000 (\$174,800 for salaries and \$72,200 for fringe benefits). It is anticipated that the annualized cost would first occur in FY 23. Assuming a 1/1/22 start date, FY 22 costs would range up to \$123,490 (up to \$87,400 for salaries and up to \$36,096 for fringe benefits).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6647****AN ACT CONCERNING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a:

1. Geographic Information Officer position to oversee a new Geographic Information Systems Office, and its staff, within the Office of Policy Management (OPM) (§ 2) and
2. Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council (GIS Council) to consult with OPM on geographic information system (GIS) matters (§ 1).

The officer is generally responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, and accessibility of GIS data. The council is generally responsible for assisting in making GIS data free and publicly available.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OFFICE AND OFFICER

The bill requires the OPM secretary to designate an employee to serve as a geographic information officer and to oversee a new Geographic Information Systems Office, which the bill appears to create within OPM, and its staff. (The bill does not delineate the new office's powers.)

The bill requires the information officer to have extensive knowledge regarding GIS and spatial data, analysis, and related technology. He or she must also have experience in project management, administration, policy development, coordinating services, and planning.

The bill makes the information officer responsible for establishing goals for the office in conjunction with the GIS Council established by

the bill. The goals must be within the scope of the officer's powers and duties, which are to:

1. coordinate the collection and compilation of GIS data and disseminate it to state, local, and regional governmental entities and others across the state;
2. manage a geospatial data clearinghouse that is publicly accessible online through the Connecticut Open Data Portal;
3. support economic development efforts by making its data accessible;
4. provide training and outreach on its data;
5. administer the creation and acquisition of geospatial data, including aerial imagery and elevation and parcel information;
6. adopt geospatial data standards, guidelines, and procedures to ensure data consistency and quality; and
7. aggregate and organize existing data sets and create new ones.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose

The bill establishes a GIS Council to consult with the OPM secretary on matters regarding free and public GIS data (e.g., its procurement, storage, and distribution). The council must additionally consult with the secretary on her powers and duties regarding geospatial information systems under existing law (CGS § 4d-90).

The council must also (1) develop priorities, (2) annually create a five-year plan, and (3) make recommendations on the priorities and plan to the OPM secretary.

Membership

Under the bill, the task force consists of fourteen members:

1. the OPM secretary and chief data officer, or their designees;

2. four representatives with GIS expertise, one each appointed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and Department of Public Health commissioners;
3. two representatives from different regional councils of governments who have GIS and certain related expertise, appointed by the Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments chairperson;
4. two representatives from different municipalities who are members of the Connecticut GIS Network and have GIS expertise, appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities president;
5. one University of Connecticut representative who has certain experience providing the state's geospatial information to various constituencies, appointed by the university president;
6. one public utility company representative, appointed by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority chairperson; and
7. two representatives from private companies (other than public utility companies) who have commercial mapping expertise, one jointly appointed by the Planning and Development Committee chairpersons and one by the ranking members.

The bill sets members' terms at two years. Appointing authorities must make initial appointments by January 1, 2022, make subsequent appointments biannually, and fill vacancies. By March 1 following their initial and subsequent appointments, members must meet and elect from among themselves a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The chairperson schedules all other meetings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 1 (03/31/2021)