



# House of Representatives

**File No. 790**

General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**(Reprint of File No. 551)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6647  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
June 4, 2021

## **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 established  
2 within the Office of Policy and Management a Geographic Information  
3 Systems Office. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
4 shall designate an employee of the Office of Policy and Management to  
5 serve as Geographic Information Officer. Such employee shall have  
6 extensive knowledge of the principles, practices, terminology and  
7 trends in geographic information systems, spatial data, analysis and  
8 related technology and experience in administration, project  
9 management, policy development, coordination of services and  
10 planning. Such employee shall (1) oversee the operations of the  
11 Geographic Information Systems Office, (2) manage the staff of such  
12 office, and (3) in conjunction with the Geographic Information Systems  
13 Advisory Council created under section 2 of this act, establish goals for  
14 such office within the scope of the powers and duties described in

15 subsection (b) of this section.

16 (b) The Geographic Information Officer shall be responsible for (1)  
17 coordinating the collection, compilation and dissemination of  
18 geographic information systems data across the state, including from  
19 and to state agencies, regional councils of governments, municipalities  
20 and other constituencies; (2) managing a geospatial data clearinghouse  
21 for public access to such information through the online repository  
22 described in subsection (i) of section 4-67p of the general statutes; (3)  
23 supporting economic development efforts in the state through the  
24 provision of such information; (4) providing training and outreach on  
25 the use of such information; (5) administering the creation and  
26 acquisition of geospatial data, including aerial imagery and elevation  
27 and parcel information; (6) adopting geospatial data standards,  
28 guidelines and procedures to ensure consistency and quality of such  
29 data; and (7) performing technical data processing to aggregate and  
30 organize existing data sets and create new data sets.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) There is created a  
32 Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council to consult with the  
33 Geographic Information Officer, designated pursuant to section 1 of this  
34 act, on matters relating to (1) the coordination, procurement, processing,  
35 storage and distribution of free and public geographic information  
36 systems data; and (2) the powers and duties described in section 4d-90  
37 of the general statutes. In the course of such consultation, the advisory  
38 council shall (A) develop (i) priorities regarding the performance of any  
39 action described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, and (ii) an  
40 annual five-year plan for such performance, and (B) make  
41 recommendations to the Geographic Information Officer concerning  
42 such priorities and plan.

43 (b) The Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council shall  
44 consist of the following members:

45 (1) The Geographic Information Officer, or the officer's designee, who  
46 shall serve as chairperson of the advisory council;

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

48 (3) One representative of the Department of Energy and  
49 Environmental Protection, who has expertise in geographic information  
50 systems, appointed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
51 Protection;

52 (4) One representative of the Department of Transportation, who has  
53 expertise in geographic information systems, appointed by the  
54 Commissioner of Transportation;

55 (5) One representative of the Department of Emergency Services and  
56 Public Protection, who has expertise in geographic information systems,  
57 appointed by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
58 Protection;

59 (6) One representative of the Department of Public Health, who has  
60 expertise in geographic information systems, appointed by the  
61 Commissioner of Public Health;

62 (7) Two representatives of different regional councils of  
63 governments, who have expertise in geographic information systems,  
64 including aerial imagery acquisition and the provision of geographic  
65 information to municipalities, appointed by the chairperson of the  
66 Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments;

67 (8) Two representatives of different municipal governments, who  
68 have expertise in geographic information systems and are members of  
69 the Connecticut GIS Network, appointed by the president of the  
70 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

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

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

77 (11) Two representatives from different private companies, neither of  
78 which is a public utility company, who have expertise in mapping  
79 applications for commercial purposes, one of whom is appointed jointly  
80 by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
81 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and  
82 development and the other of whom is appointed jointly by the ranking  
83 members of such committee.

84 (c) All initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made not  
85 later than January 1, 2022. Each member of the advisory council shall  
86 serve for a term of two years and may serve until a successor is  
87 appointed and has qualified, except that in the event of any vacancy the  
88 appointing authority shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired portion of  
89 such term.

90 (d) Not later than March 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, the  
91 Geographic Information Officer, or the officer's designee, as applicable,  
92 shall convene a meeting of the advisory council. All other meetings of  
93 the advisory council shall be as scheduled by said officer or designee.

94 Sec. 3. Section 2-79e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

96 (a) There is established the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology  
97 Advisory Board, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

98 (b) The board shall consist of the following members: (1) Two  
99 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) two  
100 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) two appointed  
101 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and (4) two  
102 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. All appointed members  
103 shall have professional experience or academic qualifications in data  
104 analysis, data management, data policy, geospatial information systems  
105 or other related fields and may not be a member of the General  
106 Assembly. Additional nonvoting ex-officio members shall include the  
107 following officials, or their designees: The Commissioner of  
108 Administrative Services, the executive director of the Freedom of

109 Information Commission, the Attorney General, the Chief Court  
110 Administrator, the State Librarian, the Treasurer, the Secretary of the  
111 State, the Comptroller, the Geographic Information Officer and the  
112 Chief Data Officer. The Chief Data Officer shall serve as the nonvoting  
113 chairperson of the board.

114 (c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than  
115 July 1, 2018. The terms of the appointed members shall be coterminous  
116 with the terms of the appointing authority for each member. Any  
117 vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy  
118 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance  
119 of the unexpired term. A member of the board may serve more than one  
120 term. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the board,  
121 which shall be held not later than August 1, 2018.

122 (d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
123 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government  
124 administration shall serve as administrative staff of the board. Upon the  
125 request of any voting member of the board and with the concurrence of  
126 the chairperson of the board, or a vote of the board, the employees of  
127 the Offices of Legislative Research and Fiscal Analysis shall provide  
128 assistance to the board.

129 (e) The board shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To  
130 advise the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government  
131 and municipalities concerning data policy, including, but not limited to,  
132 best practices in the public, private and academic sectors for data  
133 analysis, management, storage, security, privacy and visualization and  
134 the use of data to grow the economy; (2) to advise the Office of Policy  
135 and Management regarding [the online repository] online repositories  
136 for geospatial and other data, including those established under section  
137 4-67p; (3) to issue reports and recommendations in accordance with  
138 section 11-4a; (4) upon the request of at least two members of the board,  
139 to request any agency data officer or agency head to appear before the  
140 board to answer questions; (5) to request from any executive  
141 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such

142 assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes  
 143 of this section; (6) to make recommendations to the legislative leaders  
 144 and the directors of the offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative  
 145 Research regarding data analysis skills and related expertise that the  
 146 leaders and said offices may seek to cultivate among their staff through  
 147 training or as a consideration when hiring staff; and (7) to establish  
 148 bylaws to govern its procedures.

149 (f) The board shall meet at least twice a year and may meet at such  
 150 other times as deemed necessary by the chairperson or a majority of the  
 151 members of the board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	2-79e

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 <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	Up to 39,096	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 bill also establishes a Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council. This has no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and results in the above identified fiscal impact.

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

### ***The Out Years***

The above identified fiscal impact will continue into the future subject to the any wage and fringe benefit changes that occur in the GIS office established by the bill.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6647 (as amended by House "A")\*****AN ACT CONCERNING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the following entities:

1. a Geographic Information Systems Office (GISO) within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) with a geographic information officer position to oversee the new office and its staff (§ 1) and
2. a Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council (GIS Council) to consult with the information officer on geographic information system (GIS) matters, including making GIS data free and publicly available (§ 2).

The officer is generally responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, and accessibility of GIS data. The bill additionally makes the officer, or the officer's designee, a nonvoting member of the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board (§ 3).

\*House Amendment "A" explicitly establishes a new office within OPM referenced in the underlying bill and modifies the information officer's role on the GIS Council; it additionally makes the information officer a non-voting member of the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board and modifies the eligibility requirements for voting members.

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 the new GISO and its staff.

The bill requires the information officer to have (1) extensive knowledge of GIS and spatial data, analysis, and related technology and (2) experience in project management, administration, policy development, coordinating services, and planning.

Under the bill, the information officer must establish 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 GISO information officer on free and public GIS data matters (e.g., its

procurement, storage, and distribution) and OPM's 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 GISO information officer.

### ***Membership***

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

1. the GISO information officer, or the officer's designee, who serves as the task force's chairperson;
2. the chief data officer, or the officer's designee;
3. 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;
4. two representatives from different regional councils of government who have GIS and certain related expertise, appointed by the Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments chairperson;
5. 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;
6. one University of Connecticut representative who has certain experience providing the state's geospatial information to various constituencies, appointed by the university president;
7. one public utility company representative, appointed by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority chairperson; and

8. 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, or until a qualified successor is appointed. Appointing authorities must make initial appointments by January 1, 2022, subsequent appointments biannually, and fill vacancies. By March 1, 2022, and at least every two years thereafter, the chairperson must convene an advisory council meeting.

### **CONNECTICUT DATA ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD**

The bill makes the GISO information officer, or the officer's designee, a non-voting member of the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Board (i.e., a board within the Legislative Department that may, among other things, advise the three branches of state government and municipalities on data policy). Existing law specifies that the eight voting members must have professional experiences or academic qualifications in data analysis, management, or policy or related fields. The bill adds that they may qualify based on their experience or qualification in GIS.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25    Nay 1    (03/31/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33    Nay 16    (05/10/2021)