

On July 5, 2005, the Governor signed into law legislation establishing a "Geospatial Information Systems Council." The language creating the Council was included in Section 84 of Bill No. 7502, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS BUDGETARY PROVISIONS**, passed by both houses of the General Assembly in the June 2005 Special Session. The bill is now Public Act 05-3. It creates a Council with a minimum of 21 members:

**Geospatial Information Systems Council Membership**  
(from Office of Legislative Research document)

<u>Appointee</u> .....	<u>Appointing Authority</u>
OPM Secretary .....	Statutory
Environmental Protection Commissioner .....	Statutory
Economic and Community Development Commissioner .....	Statutory
Transportation Commissioner .....	Statutory
Public Safety Commissioner .....	Statutory
Public Health Commissioner .....	Statutory
Public Works Commissioner .....	Statutory
Agriculture Commissioner .....	Statutory
Emergency Management and Homeland Security Commissioner .....	Statutory
Social Services Commissioner .....	Statutory
Department of Information Technology Chief Information Officer .....	Statutory
Connecticut State University System Chancellor .....	Statutory
University of Connecticut President .....	Statutory
Connecticut Siting Council Executive Director .....	Statutory
Public Utility Control Authority Chairman .....	Statutory
Military Department Adjacent General .....	Statutory
GIS User representing town with over 60,000 people .....	Senate President Pro Tempore
GIS User representing a regional planning agency .....	Senate Minority Leader
GIS User representing a town with between 30,000 and 60,000 people...	Governor
GIS User representing a town with fewer than 30,000 people .....	House Speaker
GIS User.....	House Minority Leader

**The full text of Section 84 is included on Page 2**

Section 85 of Bill 7502 requires that OPM prepare a report on land use training and education. This language has been coupled with the language establishing a council in many previous versions of proposed legislation.

Text of Section 85:

**Sec. 85.** (Effective from passage) On or before January 15, 2006, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Council on Soil and Water Conservation, regional planning agencies organized under the provisions of chapter 127 of the general statutes, regional councils of governments and regional councils of elected officials organized under the provisions of chapter 50 of the general statutes, the Agricultural Extension Services of The University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Center of Land Use Education and Research at The University of Connecticut and the Rural Development Council, shall prepare a report on land use training and education available to members of local land uses agencies. Such report shall include a survey of existing programs and their utilization and recommendations, if any, for enhancements and additions to such programs including changes in state law.

Section 84 also references land use; in subsection (b) the first purpose listed for developing a "geospatial information system" is to "provide guidance or assistance to municipal and state officials in the [area] of land use planning..."

Information in this summary was obtained from the Connecticut General Assembly's website, <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>.

**Complete Text of Section 84 of Bill 7502, June 2005 Special Session -  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS BUDGETARY PROVISIONS:**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:  
... (115 sections total)

**Sec. 84.** (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Geospatial Information Systems Council consisting of the following members, or their designees: (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; (2) the Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Economic and Community Development, Transportation, Public Safety, Public Health, Public Works, Agriculture, Emergency Management and Homeland Security and Social Services; (3) the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Information Technology; (4) the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University system; (5) the president of The University of Connecticut; (6) the Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council; (7) one member who is a user of geospatial information systems appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate representing a municipality with a population of more than sixty thousand; (8) one member who is a user of geospatial information systems appointed by the minority leader of the Senate representing a regional planning agency; (9) one member who is a user of geospatial information systems appointed by the Governor representing a municipality with a population of less than sixty thousand but more than thirty thousand; (10) one member who is a user of geospatial information systems appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives representing a municipality with a population of less than thirty thousand; (11) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who is a user of geospatial information systems; (12) the chairperson of the Public Utility Control Authority; (13) the Adjutant General of the Military Department; and (14) any other persons the council deems necessary appointed by the council. The Governor shall select the chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall administer the affairs of the council. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the authority making the appointment. Members shall receive no compensation for their services on said council, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Said council shall hold one meeting each month and such additional meetings as may be prescribed by council rules. In addition, special meetings may be called by the chairperson or by any three members upon delivery of forty-eight hours written notice to each member.

(b) The council, within available appropriations, shall coordinate a uniform geospatial information system capacity for municipalities, regional planning agencies, the state and others, as needed, which shall include provisions for (1) creation, maintenance and dissemination of geographic information or imagery that may be used to (A) precisely identify certain locations or areas, or (B) create maps or information profiles in graphic or electronic form about particular locations or areas, and (2) promotion of a forum in which geospatial information may be centralized and distributed. In establishing such capacity, the council shall consult with municipalities, regional planning agencies, state agencies and other users of geospatial information system technology. The purpose of any such system shall be to provide guidance or assistance to municipal and state officials in the areas of land use planning, transportation, economic development, environmental, cultural and natural resources management, the delivery of public services and other areas, as necessary.

(c) The council may apply for federal grants and may accept and expend such grants on behalf of the state through the Office of Policy and Management.

(d) The council, within available appropriations, shall administer a program of technical assistance to municipalities and regional planning agencies to develop geospatial information systems and shall periodically recommend improvements to the geospatial information system provided for in subsection (b) of this section.

(e) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the council shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report on activities under this section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development.