

Existing law provides for the creation of the La. Geographic Information Systems Council within the division of administration, office of information technology, office of electronic services to be responsible for guiding the sound development of geographic information systems and geographically related information technology for the state.

New law retains existing law and additionally specifies that the council is responsible for guiding the sound development of spatially enabled data.

Existing law provides that the council is composed of a representative of each of the following:

- (1) The Senate.
- (2) The House of Representatives.
- (3) The division of administration.
- (4) The office of the military department.
- (5) The Dept. of Justice.
- (6) The Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
- (7) The Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
- (8) The Dept. of Economic Development.
- (9) The Dept. of Environmental Quality.
- (10) The Dept. of Health and Hospitals.
- (11) The Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (12) The Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (13) The Dept. of Transportation and Development.
- (14) The Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (15) The La. Assessors Association.
- (16) The Police Jury Association of Louisiana.
- (17) The La. Municipal Association.
- (18) The La. Association of Planning and Development Districts.

New law retains existing law and adds the following members:

- (1) A representative of the Dept. of Labor.
- (2) A representative of the Dept. of Social Services.
- (3) A representative of the Dept. of Education.

Existing law requires that each representative be knowledgeable about geographic information systems (GIS) and involved in GIS applications in his employment capacity. Provides that the council shall select a chairman from its membership.

Prior law allowed any other entity of the state, with council approval, to appoint a representative as a member of council

New law allows any entity (not just an entity of the state), with council approval, to appoint a representative as a member of the council. New law further authorizes each representative on the council to appoint a designee who shall have the rights and privileges as a member of the council when acting in such capacity. Provides that the council shall additionally select a vice chairman from its membership.

Existing law provides that some of duties of the council are:

- (1) To direct the activities of a center, the La. Geographic Information Center (LAGIC), established to provide various GIS services to the state.
- (2) To establish GIS policies, procedures, and guidelines for the sharing of data and technology among state agencies.
- (3) To provide a forum for the coordination and cooperation of state GIS efforts.
- (4) To advise state agencies on the acquisition and implementation of GIS and related activities.

New law retains existing law and additionally provides that the council provide oversight to LAGIC; establish GIS policies, procedures, and guidelines for the sharing of data and technology among federal, state, and local agencies; and provide a forum for the coordination and cooperation of federal, state, and local GIS efforts.

Prior law provided that other duties of the council included to promote GIS use and development in Louisiana; to attract funding for state GIS activities; to coordinate the acquisition of statewide data sets; to facilitate establishment of an infrastructure for communication and data exchange among state GIS users; and to coordinate GIS activities in state government with the activities of the office of information technology, office of electronic services.

New law provides instead that such duties shall be performed by LAGIC, and specifically provides that the duties of LAGIC shall be:

- (1) To provide various GIS services to the state and to implement the directives of the council.
- (2) To create a statewide geo-spatial portal for the consolidated distribution of spatial and related non-spatial data.
- (3) To collect, maintain, and distribute existing spatial or related non-spatial data by a statewide geo-spatial portal.
- (4) To provide technical assistance to state agencies on the acquisition and implementation of GIS and related activities.
- (5) To facilitate the establishment of an infrastructure for network communication and data exchange among state GIS users.
- (6) To promote GIS use and development in Louisiana.
- (7) To attract funding for state GIS efforts.
- (8) To serve as the primary contact for information related to geo-spatial activities.
- (9) To coordinate GIS activities in state government with the activities of the office of information technology, office of electronic services.

New law authorizes LAGIC to enter into all contracts or other associated agreements necessary to conduct its duties; to seek reimbursement for any assistance provided to federal, state, or local entities; and to apply for, accept, and utilize grants, contributions, and other funding in order to carry out its powers, functions, and duties and the directives of the council. New law additionally authorizes LAGIC to enter into agreements with federal, state, and local public entities and private sector entities in order to obtain spatial or related non-spatial data. Provides that such agreements shall protect confidentiality, contracted licensing agreements, and sensitive information or information deemed sensitive as defined by the federal Dept. of Homeland Security and state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Effective January 21, 2006.

(Amends R.S. 49:1053(A), (C)(15)-(18), (D), (E), and (F) and 1054; Adds R.S. 49:1053(C)(19)-(21), 1054.1, and 1055(D))