



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

PRINTERS NO. 2429

PRIME SPONSOR: Cutler

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 1285, Printer's Number 2429, amends the Administrative Code to create the State Geospatial Coordinating Board.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Administrative Code (Act 175 of 1929) by creating the State Geospatial Coordinating Board, which shall be an advisory board within the Governor's Office of Administration to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor on geospatial issues, uniform data standards and the coordination and efficiency of geospatial policy and technologies among federal, state and local government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector.

The board shall have the following powers and duties to recommend data development priorities and interoperability standards; monitor national and State trends; define and prioritize strategic opportunities; and develop task forces as needed to formulate recommended positions or actions.

Members of the board shall include persons knowledgeable in the fields related to geographic information systems, such as geospatial technology, data development, architecture standards, data sharing, county government, local government, municipal planning or municipal authorities. The appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

The board shall consist of the following voting members: Secretary of Administration or a designee; Secretary of Environmental Protection or a designee; Secretary of Conservation and National Resources or a designee; Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, or its successor agency, or a designee; Secretary of Transportation or a designee; Secretary of General Services or a designee; one member designated by the President pro tempore of the Senate; one member designated by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one member designated by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; one member designated by the County Geographic Information Systems Professionals Association of Pennsylvania; one member designated by the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium; and one member designated by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors.

The Governor shall appoint three members as well, including one member who shall be a county commissioner at the time of the appointment; one member being a local elected official representing an urban or suburban Pennsylvania community; and one member being a local elected official representing a rural Pennsylvania community.

The board will also consist of non-voting members, which include the Commonwealth's mapping liaison from the United States Geological Survey; one member designated by the Pennsylvania One Call System; the chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or a designee; one member designated by the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors; one member designated by the Geographic Information System Consortium of the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education; one member designated by the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association; one member designated by the American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Chapter; and the director of Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access.

The terms of office of members representing State agencies shall coincide with the term of the Governor, and the Governor shall designate the chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members of the board, other than the ex officio and legislative members. An organizational designee shall serve a term of three years.

The members of the board shall serve without compensation and are not entitled to receive travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. The council, with the approval of the Governor, may appoint and fix compensation for an executive director who shall act as secretary of the council. The council shall also have the power to employ and fix the compensation of experts, stenographers and assistants as may be deemed necessary, while the Office of Administration shall provide assistance to the council.

The effective date of this legislation is 60 days after enactment. However, it also has a sunset provision of June 30, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation may an initial cost of approximately \$50,000 for the operation of the Board. This cost is projected to increase to approximately \$200,000 if, and when, the Governor approves the hiring of an executive director or any other related staff. It is expected that some operational functions will be covered through existing operations of the Governor's Office of Administration and its Geospatial Technology Operations office staff.

Additional costs may also be incurred by the board, per the legislation, if it employs or fixes the compensation of experts, stenographers and assistants to carry out board duties and functions. However, the bill specifies that the board will attempt to enlist voluntary assistance as available from citizens, research organizations and other agencies in the Commonwealth or elsewhere if recognized as qualified to assist the board on such issues.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 22, 2013

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.