

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 712

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to renaming the Texas Natural Resources Information System
3 as the Texas Geographic Information Office and the duties of
4 certain officers of that entity.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 16.017(b), Water Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) The executive administrator shall operate as part of the
9 Texas Geographic Information Office [~~Natural Resources Information~~
10 ~~System~~] a strategic mapping program to acquire, store, and
11 distribute digital, geospatial information.

12 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 16.021, Water Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 16.021. TEXAS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OFFICE [~~NATURAL~~
15 ~~RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM~~].

16 SECTION 3. Sections 16.021(a), (b), (c), and (e), Water
17 Code, are amended to read as follows:

18 (a) The executive administrator shall establish the Texas
19 Geographic Information Office [~~Natural Resources Information~~
20 ~~System~~ (TNRIS)] to serve Texas agencies and citizens as a
21 centralized clearinghouse and referral center for:

- 22 (1) natural resource data;
23 (2) census data;
24 (3) data related to emergency management; and

1 (4) other socioeconomic data.

2 (b) The executive administrator may, on behalf of the Texas
3 Geographic Information Office [~~TNRIS~~], enter into partnerships
4 with private entities to provide additional funding for improved
5 access to Texas Geographic Information Office [~~TNRIS~~] information.
6 The board shall adopt administrative rules to describe the process
7 of establishing partnerships, define the types of partnerships that
8 may be formed, establish the fee collection process, and define the
9 nondiscriminatory methods used to determine which private entities
10 may enter into partnerships. Any process developed by the board
11 must comply with all applicable laws regarding ethics, purchasing,
12 and contracts.

13 (c) The executive administrator shall designate the deputy
14 executive administrator [~~director~~] of the Texas Geographic
15 Information Office [~~Natural Resources Information System~~] to serve
16 as the state geographic information officer. The state geographic
17 information officer shall:

18 (1) coordinate the acquisition and use of
19 high-priority imagery and data sets;

20 (2) establish, support, and disseminate authoritative
21 statewide geographic data sets;

22 (3) support geographic data needs of emergency
23 management responders during emergencies;

24 (4) monitor trends in geographic information
25 technology; and

26 (5) support public access to state geographic data and
27 resources.

1 (e) The executive administrator shall:

2 (1) further develop the Texas Geographic Information
3 Office [~~Natural Resources Information System~~] by promoting and
4 providing for effective acquisition, archiving, documentation,
5 indexing, and dissemination of natural resource and related digital
6 and nondigital data and information;

7 (2) obtain information in response to disagreements
8 regarding names and name spellings for natural and cultural
9 features in the state and provide this information to the Board on
10 Geographic Names of the United States Department of the Interior;

11 (3) make recommendations to the Board on Geographic
12 Names of the United States Department of the Interior for naming any
13 natural or cultural feature subject to the limitations provided by
14 Subsection (f);

15 (4) make recommendations to the Department of
16 Information Resources to adopt and promote standards that
17 facilitate sharing of digital natural resource data and related
18 socioeconomic data among federal, state, and local governments and
19 other interested parties;

20 (5) acquire and disseminate natural resource and
21 related socioeconomic data describing the Texas-Mexico border
22 region; and

23 (6) coordinate, conduct, and facilitate the
24 development, maintenance, and use of mutually compatible statewide
25 digital base maps depicting natural resources and man-made
26 features.

27 SECTION 4. Section [16.023\(b\)](#), Water Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) The account may be appropriated only to the board to:

3 (1) develop, administer, and implement the strategic
4 mapping program;

5 (2) provide grants to political subdivisions for
6 projects related to the development, use, and dissemination of
7 digital, geospatial information; and

8 (3) administer, implement, and operate other programs
9 of the Texas Geographic Information Office [~~Natural Resources~~
10 ~~Information System~~], including:

11 (A) the operation of a Texas-Mexico border region
12 information center for the purpose of implementing Section
13 16.021(e)(5);

14 (B) the acquisition, storage, and distribution
15 of historical maps, photographs, and paper map products;

16 (C) the maintenance and enhancement of
17 information technology; and

18 (D) the production, storage, and distribution of
19 other digital base maps, as determined by the executive
20 administrator.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.