



**Office of Information
Technology Services**

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

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Geospatial Data Act of 2017

The intent

- The Geospatial Data Act of 2017 ([S.1253](#)) substantially strengthen efforts to:
 - build a robust National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
 - reduce duplication of data gathering and processing activities
- It is “a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data”

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

In more detail

- Codify existing executive orders that direct work towards creating the NSDI
- Provide FGDC with the authority to make other agencies follow existing common sense rules
- Provide congressional oversight over geospatial activities of FGDC and other agencies

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

In more detail

- Require annual reporting for Congress to track progress on the NSDI and ensure funding is spent wisely
- Elevate the National Geospatial Advisory Committee's role and its input
- Require federal agencies to partner with other federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, higher education and the private sector to develop the data and programs for the NSDI

2015 NSDI Report Card

GRADE REPORT OF: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) **SEMESTER:** Fall 2014

Subject	Dept.	Grade
CADASTRAL DATA	DOI	D+
GEODETTIC CONTROL	DOC	B+
ELEVATION DATA	DOI	C+
HYDROGRAPHY DATA	DOI	C
ORTHOIMAGERY DATA	DOI & USDA	C+
GOVERNMENT UNITS DATA	DOC	C
TRANSPORTATION DATA	DOT	D
OVERALL DATA GRADE		C

Subject	Dept.	Grade
CAPACITY	FGDC	C
CONDITION	FGDC	D
FUNDING	Various	D
FUTURE NEED	FGDC	D
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	FGDC	C
PUBLIC USE	FGDC	C
RESILIENCE	FGDC	C
COMPREHENSIVE GRADE		C-

- Produced by the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations ([COGO](#))
- Framework data status: **C**
- Infrastructure to support the data: **C-**

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations

COGO Members

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)

Association of American Geographers (AAG)

Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CGIS)

Geographic and Land Information Society (GLIS)

GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)

International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)

Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)

National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)

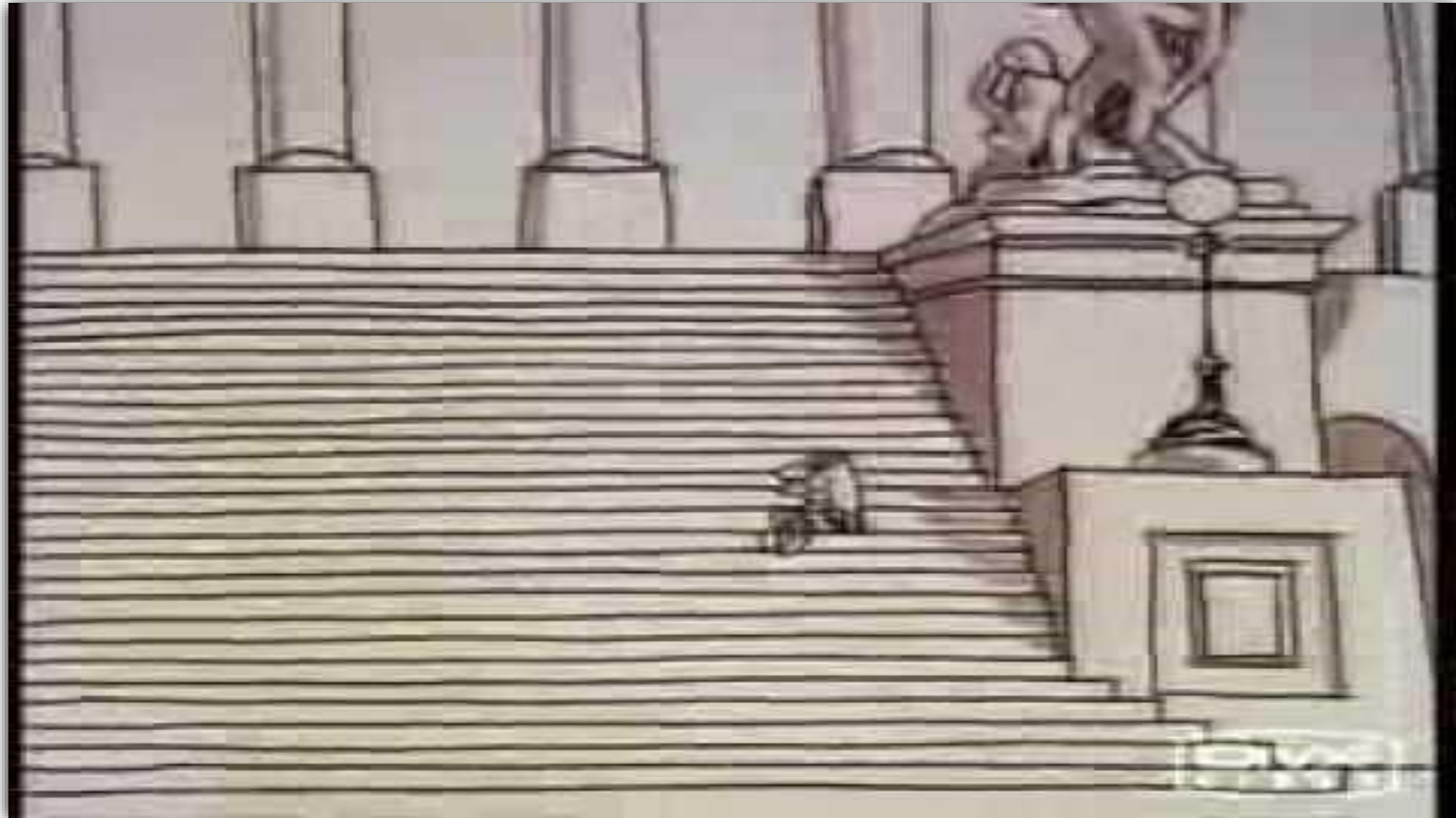
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)

Geospatial Data Act of 2015 (& 2016)

Legislative history

- Originally introduced in the 114th Congress (2015-2016)
- Geospatial Data Act of 2015 ([S.740](#))
 - Introduced 3/16/2015 by Senators Hatch (R-UT) & Warner (D-VA)
 - Bipartisan support with 9 co-sponsors
 - Referred to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Geospatial Data Act of 2016 ([H.R.6294](#))
 - Introduced 9/30/2016 by Rep. Westerman (R-AR), Hill (R-AR), and Crawford (R-AR)
 - Referred to House, Science, Space and Technology Committee and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee



Period Between 114th & 115th Congress

Legislative history

- MAPPS requested changes to the bill
 - Added procurement language
 - Cited federal agencies not adhering to Brooks Act and FAR
- COGO members provided opportunity to review
 - Only MAPPS and NSGIC participated
- Review of procurement language
 - Did not include all of the NCEES model rules (only surveying)
 - Asked for all model rules to be included (geospatial added)
 - Revised language reviewed by attorney familiar with surveying and geospatial

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Legislative history

- Reintroduced in the 115th Congress (2017-2018)
- Geospatial Data Act of 2017 ([S.1253](#))
 - Introduced 5/25/2017 by Senators Hatch (R-UT), Warner (D-VA), Heller (R-NV), and Wyden (D-OR)
 - Bipartisan support with 4 co-sponsors
 - Referred to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Geospatial Data Act of 2017 ([H.R.3522](#))
 - Introduced 7/27/2017 by Rep. Westerman (R-AR) and Moulton (D-MA)
 - Bipartisan support with 2 co-sponsors
 - Referred to House, Science, Space and Technology Committee and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

The debate

- Concern that sections 2 & 11 may add restrictions to federal procurement of geospatial data and services
- NSGIC's interpretation:
 - No change to professional licensing requirements
 - No expansion of the Brooks Act or other changes to the federal procurement process
- Congressional Research Service's opinion was that it could be interpreted either way

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Bill amendment discussions

- COGO tapped to provide recommended modifications to the bill
- Working group of 9 COGO members assembled
- Had until October 1 for revisions
- Focus on clarifying intent, particularly in Sections 2 and 11
- Department of the Interior stated they would support the GDA if the language could be resolved

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations

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Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Bill amendment discussions

- First proposal
 - Remove the added procurement language
 - Create a separate, narrowly defined stand-alone procurement bill
 - Not accepted by MAPPS or NSPS
- Second proposal
 - Keep the procurement language
 - Add a very clear statement that there is no change to the existing federal procurements under the Brooks Act or FAR
 - Not accepted by a few COGO members

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Current status

- No one is objecting to “spirit” of the GDA
- Main sticking point is the inclusion of clarifying language on the Brooks Act
- Those supporting this language do not want to expand the Brooks Act to include the term “geospatial data” but only to clarify what is already in law
- Those not in support feel it would expand the Brooks Act

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Late Breaking News

- Closest version resembling consensus moving forward
 - Procurement language removed (sections 11 & 12)
 - Simplified definition of “geospatial data” (section 2)
 - No licensed data in GeoPlatform
 - Federal data shared not restricted to just the GeoPlatform
- New bills to be reintroduced simultaneously by end of month
 - Senate and House bills will have new numbers
 - Language will be the same
 - Both have bipartisan support

Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Late Breaking News

- Very close to 2015 version
- Letter of support being drafted
 - Most COGO organizations expected to sign
 - Some private sector geospatial companies may sign or send separate letters of support
- Nothing about the GDA affects existing procurement or licensure laws at federal or state level
- NYS geospatial professionals should voice support

Questions?

