

SCR

16

March 11, 1994

Bill: SCR16
Title: Use of State Geographic Information
Meeting: Senate Resource Sub-committee, 3:30 pm

Summary: Requests the governor to direct all state agencies to release non-proprietary geographic information system (GIS) files to the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) for dissemination and use.

Administration Comments Coordinated by:

Richard McMahon
Chief, Land Records Information Section
Department of Natural Resources

1. This resolution encourages the sharing of valuable data resources among state agencies which promotes public access to information resources. As environmental information is better distributed and knowledge of where to find information improves, the public will be better served and the state's return on the investments in these products will increase.
2. Environmental issues are commonly matters of central concern. A repository of multi-agency themes may speed the response to certain questions and promote an agency's ability to meet its mission. This is more likely to happen if the repository is active in the role of synthesis and derivation of new information as opposed to being merely a passive and redundant information source. In the past, AEIDC has created unique products from diverse sources. This approach should be encouraged, but not at the expense of the agencies who must develop and maintain the original sources of the information.
3. Geographic Information Systems files are typically large and dynamic. The attached booklet describes the complexity of the GIS non-proprietary databases at a single agency, the Department of Natural Resources. Care must be taken to prevent the unnecessary duplication of complex systems.
4. Methods to address the responsible dissemination of data would have to be determined.



Alaska State Senate

Senate Finance Committee

Official Business

Memorandum

Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To: Senator Mike Miller
Chair, Senate Resources Committee

From: Senator Drue Pearce 
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Request for scheduling - SCR 16

Date: February 14, 1994

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 was introduced by the Senate Finance Committee. Its first committee of referral is the Senate Resources Committee, and I respectfully request that you schedule a hearing on this resolution at the earliest possible time.

The technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is becoming the preeminent tool in land, environmental, and natural resource decision making agencies. The agencies of the State of Alaska have spent many years and millions of our state's dollars gathering this GIS data, and I believe that all non-proprietary GIS files should be made available for public dissemination and use.

In 1972 the Alaska legislature designated the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC), a program of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Environment and Natural Resources Institute, as the principal environmental information and data archival and dissemination node for Alaska. As such, AEIDC maintains a unique and diverse archive information base, and is, therefore, the logical entity to handle dissemination of this Alaska-related information and data.

When the bill is scheduled for a hearing, please contact Jo Fenety in my office so that she can arrange for Dr. Douglas A. Segar, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Institute of the University of Alaska Anchorage to be available either by teleconference or in person to testify in support of this resolution.

DP:jf

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