

## MN Chapter 13 – Data Practices Update

### Geospatial Data

February 23, 2012

House File 2201, an update to Minnesota's Data Practices Law (MS Chapter 13) was introduced on February 13, 2012. This bill contains a number of proposed changes to the Data Practices Act including one relating to geospatial data. In the introduced bill, the geospatial data provision is located at lines 5.14 – 5.20 and reads:

5.14(g) Electronic geospatial government data maintained by a government entity shall  
5.15be shared at no cost to government entities and federal and tribal government agencies.  
5.16Request for copies of the data under this section must be made to the government entity  
5.17that originally developed the data. Any data received by a government entity under this  
5.18subdivision may only be reproduced or redistributed as permitted by the government  
5.19entity that developed the data. Government entities are immune from civil liability for  
5.20any data shared at no cost as provided by this subdivision.

Changes to the language are expected as the bill moves through the legislative process including the addition of some definitions. MnGeo is suggesting definitions similar to those used by Arizona:

**"Geographic information system"** means computer-based technologies for storing, manipulating and analyzing geospatial data.

**"Geospatial data"** means digital data using geographic or projected map coordinate values, identification codes and associated descriptive data to locate and describe boundaries or features on, above or below the surface of the earth or characteristics of the earth's inhabitants or its natural or human-constructed features.

To see the bill's status and most current language, please visit the Revisor's web site located at:  
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>