

*Resolution of the County Board
Of
Kankakee County, Illinois*

RE: OPPOSITION TO ILLINOIS 95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY SENATE BILL SB0399, AMENDMENT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO ELIMINATE EXCEPTION FOR COMPUTER GEOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS, DESIGNS, DRAWINGS, MAPS, AND RESEARCH DATA

WHEREAS, the 95th General Assembly of Illinois Senate Bill 0399 proposes to amend the Illinois Freedom of Information Act by adding an amendment to said Senate Bill by striking the exemption from inspection and copying which states:

- (i) Valuable formulae, computer geographic systems, designs, drawings and research data obtained or produced by any public body when disclosure could reasonably be expected to produce private gain or public loss. The exemption for "computer geographic systems" provided for in this paragraph (i) does not extend to requests made by news media as defined in section 2 of this Act when the requested information is not otherwise exempt and the only purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, welfare, or legal rights of the general public.

and

WHEREAS, the County of Kankakee has created a computer Geographic Information System (GIS) at great expense to the county and the contributing municipalities of Bourbonnais, Manteno and the City of Kankakee, and through entering into licensing agreements with private enterprise and employing personnel to operate the system, and

WHEREAS, the County of Kankakee charges reasonably set fees for covering the costs of licensing agreements, research and access to the system by private persons and enterprise and non participatory local municipalities, and the County may not be financially able to maintain the GIS system should it become unable to charge such fees and only charge copying costs, thus eliminating a public service to the business community, private interests and public entities which use such data, and

WHEREAS, due to State funding cuts it is doubtful that the State of Illinois will fund the said Kankakee County GIS system resulting in additional costs to the County annually if it is financially able to continue its GIS program, and

WHEREAS, the Kankakee County GIS Committee unanimously voted to oppose this amendment striking the exemption to Senate Bill 0399.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Kankakee County Board, after review, discussion and consideration, that it opposes the passage of the Amendment to the 95th General Assembly of Illinois Senate Bill 0399 striking the exemption from copying and inspection in the Freedom of Information Act for valuable formulae, computer geographic systems, designs, drawings and research data, and opposes any legislation which proposes to amend the Freedom of Information Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kankakee County Board encourages and requests the Governor of Illinois, its State Senators and State Representatives to reject passage of this bill with said amendment and any other such proposed legislation which would have the same force and effect; and that the Kankakee County Clerk's Office shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor of Illinois and our local State legislators.

ADOPTED and Passed this 12th day of June, 2007.


Karl Kruse, Board Chairman

ATTEST:


Bruce Clark, County Clerk