

Kenneth A. Nelson  
Kansas Senate Committee on Transportation  
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Senate Bill 424  
Neutral  
In-person testimony

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and respected committee members. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning regarding Senate Bill 424 concerning the Kansas Plane Coordinate System. My name is Ken Nelson, and I am a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professional with over 30 years of experience. I work at the Kansas Geological Survey, where I serve as the associate director for GIS & IT and Kansas Geographic Information Officer.

Utilization of the State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) is common among GIS and mapping professionals in the state. Over the past several years, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has embarked on an effort to update the SPCS and the associated terrestrial reference frames. As a result, the third generation of the SPCS is scheduled for implementation in 2025. The next generation of the SPCS will improve accuracy, increase efficiency, and ease the adoption of low-distortion projections across the mapping community.

The statutory change proposed in this legislation effectively accommodates the update to the SPCS brought about by the NGS modernization effort. Maintaining alignment and consistency with NGS specifications is important to GIS and mapping professionals across the state. Additionally, this bill is effectively “future-proofed” by recognizing previous NGS specifications, while accommodating potential future updates. I believe this bill enjoys broad support among Kansas GIS and mapping professionals. Additionally, the proposed legislative update is consistent with legislation enacted or proposed in other states to address this same NGS modernization effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the committee this morning.

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