



2026  
**SURVEYORS'**  
*Conference*

**State Legislative Issues  
Impacting Surveying**

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## State Legislative Issues



- HB 513
- Right-of-Entry Legislation
- The Registration Law (Act of 1945)
- SB 399
- HB 873
- SB 215
- PSLS Political Action Committee (PAC)

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# HB 513 - State Plane Coordinate System Law



- Was introduced by Representative Eric DeVanzo
- This will replace the current Pennsylvania Coordinate System Law, P.L. 1223, No. 161, Cl. 76
- Update the law for a new coordinate framework, allowing SPCS users to modernize data while staying compliant
- Support NGS's update to the National Spatial Reference System with the 2022 North American Terrestrial Reference Frame, finalizing in 2026
- Referred to House Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations Committee
- Voted out of committee by a vote of 25-1 on 12/15/25

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# House Bill 513 - Bill Idea



## Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System Law

### I. Acronyms

The following acronyms will be used throughout this law in order to increase conciseness.

- FGDC = Federal Geographic Data Committee or its successors
- NGS = National Geodetic Survey or its successors
- NSRS = National Spatial Reference System or its successors
- SPCS = State Plane Coordinate System or its successors
- PSPCS = Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System

The NSRS is the overarching system that includes reference frames, datums, coordinate systems, and other products defined by the NGS. Within the NSRS exist multiple datums that define geodetic coordinates, and there are multiple ways to project such geodetic coordinates into planar coordinate systems. The SPCS is the primary plane coordinate system used by geospatial professionals and is the term used for referencing the overall system used by all fifty US States, while the PSPCS refers specifically to the SPCS as defined and used in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The FGDC is a multi-agency organization comprised of Federal geospatial professionals and constituents that provide executive, managerial, and advisory direction and oversight for geospatial decisions and initiatives across the Federal government.

### II. The Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System

The most recent system of plane coordinates which has been established by NGS, based on the NSRS, and known as the SPCS, for defining and stating the positions or locations of points on the surface of the earth within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be known designated as the Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System (PSPCS). The PSPCS consists of two layers of zones: a single zone with full coverage of Pennsylvania and a set of smaller regional zones that together provide the same coverage. The single zone of full coverage is designed for statewide mapping datasets, while the smaller zones are designed for engineering/surveying projects, yet the determination of which layer to use shall be a user decision based on needs. Selection of zone in the regional layer should be based on the location of the project; for projects falling on a zone boundary the user should select one zone to use for all coordinates or utilize the statewide zone. Defining parameters of the PSPCS, including zone definitions, are defined and published by the NGS as a part of the overall SPCS, and can be requested or changed by the Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, or their successors or assigns.

The plane coordinates of a point to be used in expressing the geographic position or location of the point in the appropriate zone of the PSPCS, shall consist of two distances, expressed in meters and decimals of a meter or feet and decimals of a foot. Any datums released subsequent to the NIST definition of the foot (January 1, 2023), when the values are expressed in feet, a definition of 1 foot = 0.3048 meters exactly must be used. One of these distances, to be known as the "East or x-coordinate," shall give the distance east of the Y axis; the other, to be known as the "North or y-coordinate," shall give the distance north of

the X axis. The Y axis of any zone shall be parallel with the central meridian of that zone. The X axis of any zone shall be at right angles to the central meridian of that zone.

The PSPCS shall be named in any land description, plat, map, report of survey, or other document in which coordinates based on it are used and the zone shall be specifically designated. Also included with the designation shall be a notation indicating the source geodetic datum and decimal year epoch date of the survey or coordinate derivation/calculation. Example: PSPCS, Zone, NATRF2022 epoch 2020.00

### III. Legacy or Historical Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate Systems

Prior to the most recent system of plane coordinates established by NGS there were two previous versions of the SPCS, thus two corresponding systems used in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The SPCS of 1927 (SPCS27), established by the NGS and referenced to the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27), was the original system of statewide plane coordinates used in Pennsylvania and was codified for use from 1937 through December 1995. All parameters of SPCS27 were defined in US Survey Feet and coordinates were legally required to be reported in US Survey Feet. The NGS maintains access to the SPCS27 via coordinate conversion and transformation software, tools accessed over the internet, and published historical documents that include detailed projection parameters, all freely available on their official Government website or by contacting NGS Headquarters or other agency personnel directly.

The SPCS of 1983 (SPCS83), established by the NGS and referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), was the second system of statewide plane coordinates used in Pennsylvania and was codified for use from January 1996 through December 2022. All parameters of SPCS83 were defined in Meters and coordinates were legally required to be reported in Meters, although most users continued to report coordinates in US Survey Feet. The NGS maintains access to the SPCS83 via coordinate conversion and transformation software, tools accessed over the internet, and published historical documents that include detailed projection parameters, all freely available on their official Government website or by contacting NGS Headquarters or other agency personnel directly.

For the purposes of the use of both SPCS27 and SPCS83 within Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth was divided into two zones: the North Zone, and the South Zone.

The area included in the following counties constituted the North Zone:

- Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Wayne, and Wyoming.

The area included in the following counties constituted the South Zone:

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# House Bill 513 - Bill Preparation



## Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board Geodetic Working Group Policy Recommendation on State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) of 2022

**Overview** The Geodetic Working Group discussed and recommended draft language designed to replace the current Pennsylvania Coordinate System Law, P.L. 1224, No. 161, Cl. 76. An update of the law is necessary to provide users with a new framework of planar coordinates that are aligned to the new geometric reference frame (aka horizontal datum) in development by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and to allow those users of the State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) to update/modernize their data while maintaining compliance with applicable Federal guidelines.

**Recommendation** The language and ideas embodied in "DRAFT Guidance\_PA Coordinate System Law 2023-1-10" should be endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board (GeoBoard) and form the basis for legislation in the 2023-2024 session which would define the PA SPCS.

**Background** There is a plan in place by the NGS to modernize the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), which is the official definition of positional parameters including latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States. The new datum is known as the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 (NATRF2022) and, although delayed by the pandemic, final definition and acceptance is expected to occur in 2025. Extensive information on the datum change is available at [New Datums - National Geodetic Survey \(noaa.gov\)](#). Along with the definitional parameters, there are other Products and Systems published by the NGS that are also part of the NSRS, including the SPCS. The currently legislated version of the SPCS is SPCS83, but the modernization plan from NGS will replace that with SPCS2022. As a result, the Commonwealth's PA Coordinate System Law from 1992 (P.L. 1224, No. 161, Cl. 76) will need to be updated to reflect the changes to this national geodetic infrastructure. In tandem with this modernization is an action by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to deprecate the US Survey Foot as an official unit of measure in the United States. This will necessitate a change to the law so as to coincide with the changes outlined by the NIST, which can be included in a single bill with the coordinate system law.

GeoBoard members involved in the definition and drafting of the SPCS changes include the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS), PennDOT, PA Turnpike Commission (PTC), and the Office of Administration (OA). These organizations have worked together with our Regional Geodetic Advisory Board (RGAB) to understand what changes are coming at the national level and how the SPCS LAW can be best updated while also being more "future-proof" in its language.

**Adverse Consequences** If the Commonwealth does not embrace the NGS updates to the NSRS, the efficiencies gained by moving to a more accurate system will not be realized. Such efficiencies include reduced time in the field obtaining survey-grade positions and more accurate elevations (aka orthometric heights) obtainable via Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) such as GPS, among others. If the unit conversion factor based on the US Survey Foot is not addressed in an updated law, there will likely be more confusion and impacts to projects than there are now, as most modern software will follow suit with recommendations from the NIST and NGS to not support the legacy US Survey Foot when a user chooses one of the new datums to set up their project.

**Financial Impact** The financial impact of these changes should be very minimal to the general populace and a little higher to the geospatial community. Geospatial organizations/companies in general are not required to maintain their data in the NSRS, nor are they required to transform legacy data into the new datums once released. However, for those wishing to maintain currency and reap all the benefits of NSRS Modernization, they will need to put forth moderate efforts to transform their data and to update practices. This will include the use of software to perform the transformations, some of which may be automated. In an alternative to commercially-licensed software, the NGS maintains committed to providing free tools via the internet to facilitate such transformations. These will be just as robust as any commercial applications, but may not be as easy to learn or use.

**Other States** There are plans to update similar laws in all 50 states, and as of this time numerous states have already passed suitable legislation; some examples may be viewed at: [Index of /pub/SPCS/ExampleLegislation \(noaa.gov\)](#).

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# HB 513 - Memo from Representative



## House of Representatives Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session MEMORANDUM

Posted: [INSERT DATE AND TIME]  
From: [Representative Eric Davanzo](#)  
To: All House members  
Subject: Necessary Updates to our Geospatial Statute

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation to update our Commonwealth's framework and system for establishing and referencing coordinates for maps and geographic datasets.

The National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), managed by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), is a consistent coordinate system that defines latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States. The system also establishes the official geodetic system for surveying and mapping.

Presently, the system has established the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) as the official geometric datum used for horizontal positions. Many states have subsequently codified NAD 83 into law for their own surveying purposes, including Pennsylvania.

The NGS is in the process of modernizing the NSRS, and NAD83 will be replaced by the "North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022" (NATRF2022). Final definition and acceptance is expected in 2025.

The problem is that Pennsylvania law is explicitly tied to a soon-to-be antiquated system. Failure to address this will lead to degraded accuracy of statewide geospatial data, growing inconsistencies along boundaries and borders, and potentially require maintenance of multiple sets of maps and geographic data at significant expense.

My legislation resolves this dilemma. It establishes a new, cleaner-looking law without any explicit references to outgoing systems. This essentially future-proofs Pennsylvania's statute so that it can always remain consistent with any future changes. It also makes necessary repeals for legislative clarity, and makes recommended changes by stakeholder groups.

This is legislation that all 50 states will need to soon enact, and so far, 12 have done so.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important bill

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# House Bill 513 - Draft Legislation



2025D02504 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU L.R.B. Form No. 4 (Rev. 10/17) HB 513

Legislative Reference Bureau

INTRODUCED Feb. 4, 2025

By Davanzo, Eric District NO. 58

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reported \_\_\_\_\_

As Committed-Amended \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

By Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ACT  
 1 Providing for Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System, for  
 2 notation requirements and for duties of State Geospatial  
 3 Coordinating Board; and making a repeal.  
 4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 5 hereby enacts as follows:  
 6 Section 1. Short title.  
 7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
 8 State Plane Coordinate System Act. *and vertical*  
 9 Section 2. Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System.  
 10 (a) System.--The most recent system of plane coordinates  
 11 based on the National Spatial Reference System, known as the  
 12 State Plane Coordinate System, which has been established by the  
 13 National Geodetic Survey or its successors for defining and  
 14 stating the horizontal positions or locations of points on the  
 15 surface of the earth within this Commonwealth, shall be known as  
 16 the Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System.  
 17 (b) Parameters.--The defining parameters of the Pennsylvania  
 18 State Plane Coordinate System, including zone definitions, shall  
 19 longitude, ellipsoid height, orthometric height or dynamic  
 20 height, are referenced within this Commonwealth shall be as  
 21 defined for the National Spatial Reference System or its  
 22 successors and may be accessed via the National Oceanic and  
 23 Atmospheric Administration Continuously Operating Reference  
 24 Stations Network.  
 25 (d) Previous versions.--Previous versions of the  
 26 Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System shall include the  
 27 Pennsylvania Coordinate System of 1983 and the Pennsylvania  
 28 Coordinate System of 1937 (P.L.1208, No.310), *The use of the term "layers" is in keeping with  
 29 NGS definition that they are using nationwide.  
 30 Lines 26 and 27 should be kept as-is. See  
 31 Section 4 for detail on why layer is used.*  
 32 and officially adopt a system of coordinates for designating the  
 33 positions of points on the surface of the earth within the  
 34 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."  
 35 Section 3. Description of Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate  
 36 System.  
 37 The Pennsylvania State Plane Coordinate System shall consist  
 38 of two layers of zones as follows:  
 39 (1) a single zone with full coverage of this  
 40 Commonwealth; and *layer*  
 41 (2) a set of smaller regional zones, as specified under  
 42 *layer*

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1 be defined and published by the National Geodetic Survey or its  
 2 successors as a part of the overall State Plane Coordinate  
 3 System. ~~The defining parameters may be requested to be changed~~  
 4 ~~by the State Geospatial Coordinating Board or the Department of~~  
 5 ~~Transportation or the successors or designees of the State~~  
 6 ~~Geospatial Coordinating Board or the Department of~~  
 7 ~~Transportation.~~  
 8 (c) Geodetic datums.--The official geodetic datums to which  
 9 geodetic coordinates, including, but not limited to, latitude,

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# Right-of-Entry Legislation



- Will be introduced by PSLS
- This will grant Surveyors & their subordinates the limited right-of-entry to the lands of others which are necessary to perform their work
- Will be a similar version to the West Virginia Law
- Current Summary of States
  - 29 States currently allow for Right-of-Entry

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## The Registration Law (Act of 1945)



- Will be drafted with recommended revisions and explanations to the current NCEES Model Law
- This will make the necessary revisions to today's standards

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## Senate Bill 399



- Judiciary & Judicial Procedure of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, further providing for construction projects
- Introduced by Senator Laughlin 3/6/25
- Proposed changes:
  - Wrongful death lawsuit time limit changes from 10 years to 4 years
  - Construction completion lawsuit time limit changes from 12 years to 6 years
  - The time limit for filing a civil action after project completion changes from 14 years to 8 years.

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## Senate Bill 399 – Continued



- PSLs will be supporting this legislation along with many other special interest
- The key is getting both labor and trial lawyers on board

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## House Bill 873



- An Act providing for an Erosion & Sediment control permit, for compliance, for annual report and for duties of DEP
- Introduced by Representative Zimmerman on 3/11/25
- Referred to the Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee
- If this starts to move, PSLs will be introducing an amendment

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## Senate Bill 215



- An act amending the Act of May 23, 1945, known as the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Law, further providing for exemption from licensure and registration
- Introduced by Senator Lisa Baker 2/3/25
- Referred to the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
- This legislation will provide a licensure exemption for employees, contractors and agents of public utilities, electric cooperatives and telecommunication companies

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## Senate Bill 215 – Continued



- Utilities, electric co-ops & telecommunication companies utilize both employees and contractors for field work, including, but not limited to vegetation management, pole attachments, line construction & asset management
- Under current law, utility & telecommunications company employees are already exempt
- This legislation would extend the exemption to their contractors and agents and include the related industries of electric co-ops and cable & broadband service provider
- PSLS will be opposing the legislation

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## PSLS Political Action Committee (PAC)



- With the amount of legislation that PSLS is attempting to get done and to accomplish our agenda, we must continue to donate to the Political Action Committee (PAC).
- This will enable us to discuss pending legislation affecting the profession and allow us to protect the interests of surveyors. I encourage everyone to consider donating to the PAC so that we can protect our profession
- Let's not forget that PAC is our voice! Please visit me at the booth

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## Questions



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# SESSION EVALUATION



[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/PSLS2026EVAL](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSLS2026EVAL)