

STATE OF NEW YORK

6816

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 20, 2017

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to accessing records under the freedom of information law

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph iii of paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 and
2 subdivision 3 of section 89 of the public officers law, subparagraph iii
3 of paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 as amended by section 11 of part U of
4 chapter 61 of the laws of 2011 and subdivision 3 as amended by chapter
5 223 of the laws of 2008, are amended to read as follows:

6 iii. sale or release of lists of names of natural persons and residen-
7 tial addresses if such lists would be used for solicitation or fund-
8 raising purposes;

9 3. (a) Each entity subject to the provisions of this article, within
10 five business days of the receipt of a written request for a record
11 reasonably described, shall make such record available to the person
12 requesting it, deny such request in writing or furnish a written
13 acknowledgement of the receipt of such request and a statement of the
14 approximate date, which shall be reasonable under the circumstances of
15 the request, when [~~such request will be granted or denied~~] a response
16 will be given, including, where appropriate, a statement that access to
17 the record will be determined in accordance with subdivision five of
18 this section.

19 (b) An agency shall not deny a request on the basis that the request
20 is voluminous or that locating, generating or reviewing the requested
21 record or records or providing the requested copies is burdensome
22 because the agency lacks sufficient staffing or on any other basis if
23 the agency may engage an outside professional service to provide copy-
24 ing, programming or other services required to provide the copy, the

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 costs of which the agency may recover pursuant to paragraph (c) of
2 subdivision one of section eighty-seven of this article.

3 (c) An agency may require a person requesting lists of names and
4 addresses to provide a written certification that such person will not
5 use such lists of names of natural persons and residential addresses for
6 solicitation or fund-raising purposes and will not sell, give or other-
7 wise make available such lists of names and addresses to any other
8 person for the purpose of allowing that person to use such lists of
9 names and addresses for solicitation or fund-raising purposes.

10 ~~(d)~~ If ~~[an agency determines to grant a request in whole or in part,~~
11 ~~and if]~~ circumstances prevent an agency from notifying the person
12 requesting the record or records of the agency's determination regarding
13 the rights of access and disclosure to the person requesting the record
14 or records within twenty business days from the date of the acknowledge-
15 ment of the receipt of the request, the agency shall state, in writing,
16 both the reason for the inability to ~~[grant the request]~~ do so within
17 twenty business days and a date certain within a reasonable period,
18 depending on the circumstances, when ~~[the request will be granted in~~
19 ~~whole or in part]~~ a determination regarding disclosure will be rendered.

20 (e) Upon payment of, or offer to pay, the fee prescribed therefor, the
21 entity shall provide a copy of such record and certify to the correct-
22 ness of such copy if so requested, or as the case may be, shall certify
23 that it does not have possession of such record or that such record
24 cannot be found after diligent search.

25 (f) Nothing in this article shall be construed to require any entity
26 to ~~[prepare]~~ create any record not possessed or maintained by such enti-
27 ty except the records specified in subdivision three of section eighty-
28 seven and subdivision three of section eighty-eight of this article.
29 When an agency has the ability to retrieve or extract a record or data
30 maintained in a computer storage system with reasonable effort, it shall
31 be required to do so. When doing so requires less employee time than
32 engaging in manual retrieval or redactions from non-electronic records,
33 the agency shall be required to retrieve or extract such record or data
34 electronically. ~~[Any programming necessary to retrieve]~~ The retrieval of
35 a record or data maintained in a computer storage system and ~~[to]~~ the
36 transfer of that record to the medium requested by a person or to a
37 medium that would allow the transferred record to be read or printed
38 shall not be deemed to be the ~~[preparation or]~~ creation of a new record.

39 ~~(b)~~ (g) All entities shall, provided such entity has reasonable
40 means available, accept requests for records submitted in the form of
41 electronic mail and shall respond to such requests by electronic mail,
42 using forms, to the extent practicable, consistent with the form or
43 forms developed by the committee on open government pursuant to subdivi-
44 sion one of this section and provided that the written requests do not
45 seek a response in some other form.

46 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.