S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3451

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 25, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. GABRYSZAK, SCHIMMINGER, ROBINSON, GUNTHER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. HOOPER, MAGNARELLI, McENENY, PHEFFER, SWEENEY, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to authorizing volunteer fire and ambulance companies to receive grants for local government records management improvement

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The legislature finds that volunteer fire and ambulance companies perform a vital function for the municipalities which they serve, one that is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of all persons within such municipalities. Such functions are therefore a public purpose. Thus, the public records of volunteer fire and ambulance companies are a matter of great importance and concern to the state and are necessary to the administration of the municipalities which they serve. These public records document the legal responsibilities of the volunteer fire and ambulance companies and the reciprocal rights and liabilities of the municipalities which they serve. These essential public records provide citizens and other public officials with a means of monitoring the entitlements and obligation of municipalities and the expenditure of public funds. In addition, such records also reflect the historical development of the communities served by such volunteer fire and ambulance companies.

Such records are necessary to municipalities in connection with service award programs for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to articles 11-A, 11-AA, 11-AAA, and 11-AAAA, respectively, of the general municipal law. These records are equally necessary in connection with municipalities' obligations pertaining to volunteer firefighters under article 10 of the general municipal law.

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

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S 2. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 57.17 of the arts and cultural affairs law, as added by chapter 737 of the laws of 1987, are amended to read as follows:

1. "Local government" means any county, city, town, village, school district, board of cooperative educational services, district corporation, public benefit corporation, public corporation, FIRE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' BENEFIT LAW, AMBULANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE OF THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS' BENEFIT LAW, or other government created under state law that is not a state department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency, heretofore or hereafter established by law.

3. "Local officer" shall mean and include a local officer as defined in section two of the public officers law and any officer of a public benefit corporation, FIRE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' BENEFIT LAW, OR AMBULANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE OF THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS' BENEFIT LAW.

S 3. The commissioner of education is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate any rules or regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.