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I N   S E N A T E

March 11, 2014

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Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to opinions concerning authenticity, attribution and authorship of works of fine art

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

1     Section 1.    The arts and cultural affairs law is amended by adding a  
2 new section 13.04 to read as follows:

3     S 13.04. OPINIONS AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF  
4 WORKS OF FINE ART. 1. IN ANY CIVIL ACTION BROUGHT AGAINST AN AUTHENTICA-  
5 TOR THAT ARISES FROM OR RELATES TO THE AUTHENTICATOR'S OPINION OR INFOR-  
6 MATION CONCERNING A WORK OF FINE ART, THE CLAIMANT SHALL:

7        (A) SPECIFY WITH PARTICULARITY IN THE COMPLAINT FACTS SUFFICIENT TO  
8 SUPPORT EACH ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM OR CLAIMS ASSERTED; AND

9        (B) PROVE THE ELEMENTS OF SUCH CLAIM OR CLAIMS BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING  
10 EVIDENCE.

11     2. IN ANY ACTION DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE  
12 AUTHENTICATOR SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER HIS, HER OR ITS REASONABLE  
13 ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS AND EXPENSES IF AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THE  
14 AUTHENTICATOR PREVAILS IN SUCH ACTION.

15     3. "AUTHENTICATOR" AS USED IN THIS SECTION SHALL MEAN, SUBJECT TO THE  
16 LIMITATIONS IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A PERSON OR ENTITY  
17 RECOGNIZED IN THE VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY AS HAVING EXPERTISE REGARDING  
18 THE ARTIST OR WORK OF FINE ART WITH RESPECT TO WHOM SUCH PERSON OR ENTI-  
19 TY RENDERS AN OPINION IN GOOD FAITH AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION  
20 OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF FINE ART, OR A PERSON OR ENTITY RECOGNIZED IN  
21 THE VISUAL ARTS OR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AS HAVING EXPERTISE IN UNCOVER-  
22 ING FACTS THAT SERVE AS A DIRECT BASIS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FOR AN  
23 OPINION AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF  
24 FINE ART. "AUTHENTICATOR" SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, AUTHORS  
25 OF CATALOGUES RAISONNE OR OTHER SCHOLARLY TEXTS IN WHICH AN OPINION AS  
26 TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF A WORK OF ART IS

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

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1 EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. "AUTHENTICATOR" SHALL NOT INCLUDE A PERSON OR  
2 ENTITY THAT HAS A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE WORK OF FINE ART FOR WHICH  
3 SUCH OPINION IS RENDERED OR IN ANY TRANSACTION CONCERNING SUCH WORK OF  
4 FINE ART FOR WHICH THE OPINION IS RENDERED, OTHER THAN TO BE COMPENSATED  
5 FOR SERVICES SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY ENGAGED IN TO PROVIDE AN OPINION AS  
6 TO THE AUTHENTICITY, ATTRIBUTION OR AUTHORSHIP OF SUCH WORK OF FINE ART  
7 OR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHICH SUCH AN OPINION IS BASED IN WHOLE OR  
8 IN PART.

9 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
10 have become a law and shall apply to all opinions as to the authentic-  
11 ty, attribution or authorship of a work of fine art provided to someone  
12 other than the authenticator after such effective date.