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I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 3, 2014

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Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI -- 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 ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The legislature hereby finds and declares that volunteer  
2     fire companies and volunteer ambulance companies perform vital services  
3     for the municipalities they serve. These not-for-profit volunteer emer-  
4     gency response organizations serve a meaningful public purpose by help-  
5     ing to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. Further,  
6     these organizations work collaboratively with municipal officials in  
7     their respective localities and help to reduce the burdens on our local  
8     governments.

9     The records of volunteer fire companies and volunteer ambulance compa-  
10    nies are important since they indicate the relationship, rights and  
11    responsibilities with respect to the communities they serve. And, proper  
12    records management assists municipalities and emergency response organ-  
13    izations with their legal obligations under the general municipal law.  
14    In addition, these records make appropriate information available to the  
15    public and to municipal officials with respect to fire and emergency  
16    services, and also reflect the historical development of the communities  
17    served by such volunteer fire and ambulance companies. For these  
18    reasons, the legislature hereby further finds and declares that not-for-  
19    profit volunteer fire companies and volunteer ambulance companies should  
20    be eligible for the records management improvement grant program in  
21    order to help them operate more effectively and efficiently in our local  
22    communities.

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

26    1. "Local government" means any county, city, town, village, school  
27    district, board of cooperative educational services, district corpo-

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

LBD07892-03-3

1 ration, public benefit corporation, public corporation, FIRE COMPANY AS  
2 DEFINED IN SECTION ONE HUNDRED OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, VOLUNTARY  
3 AMBULANCE SERVICE AS DEFINED IN SECTION ONE HUNDRED OF THE GENERAL  
4 MUNICIPAL LAW, or other government created under state law that is not a  
5 state department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency,  
6 heretofore or hereafter established by law.

7 3. "Local officer" shall mean and include a local officer as defined  
8 in section two of the public officers law and any officer of a public  
9 benefit corporation, FIRE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION ONE HUNDRED OF  
10 THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, VOLUNTARY AMBULANCE SERVICE AS DEFINED IN  
11 SECTION ONE HUNDRED OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW.

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

15 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.