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I N A S S E M B L Y

March 10, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, GALEF, BRINDISI, CAHILL, HIKIND, JAFFEE, KAVANAGH, LAVINE, MAGNARELLI, ROSENTHAL, TITONE, ZEBROWSKI, FAHY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON, COOK, GOTTFRIED, LUPARDO, PERRY, ROBINSON, THIELE, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to freedom of information requests and attorneys' fees

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 89 of the public
2 officers law, as amended by chapter 492 of the laws of 2006, is amended
3 to read as follows:
4 (c) (1) The court in such a proceeding may assess, against such agency
5 involved, reasonable [attorney's] ATTORNEYS' fees and other litigation
6 costs reasonably incurred by such person in any case under the
7 provisions of this section in which such person has substantially
8 prevailed, [when:
9 i. the agency had no reasonable basis for denying access; or
10 ii.] AND WHEN the agency failed to respond to a request or appeal
11 within the statutory time.
12 (2) THE COURT IN SUCH PROCEEDING SHALL ASSESS, AGAINST SUCH AGENCY
13 INVOLVED, REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND OTHER LITIGATION COSTS REASON-
14 ABLY INCURRED BY SUCH PERSON, IN ANY CASE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
15 SECTION IN WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS SUBSTANTIALLY PREVAILED AND THE COURT
16 FINDS THAT THE AGENCY DENIED ACCESS IN CLEAR DISREGARD OF THE EXCEPTIONS
17 TO RIGHTS OF ACCESS IN SECTION EIGHTY-SEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE AND HAD NO
18 REASONABLE BASIS FOR DENYING ACCESS.
19 S2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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