STATE OF NEW YORK

2235

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to the amount of damages recoverable in a cause of action for unlawful interference with protected rights

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 70-b of the civil rights law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the civil rights law relating to establishing a cause of action for unlawful interference with protected rights, as proposed in legislative bills numbers A. 10094-A and S. 9039-A, is amended to read as follows:

(b) [~~punitive~~] **additional damages of up to three times the amount of compensatory** damages shall be recoverable upon an additional demonstration that the action against the plaintiff was commenced or continued for the purpose of harassing, intimidating, punishing or otherwise maliciously inhibiting the exercise of rights protected in New York, including but not limited to the rights in subdivision six of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the civil rights law relating to establishing a cause of action for unlawful interference with protected rights, as proposed in legislative bills numbers A. 10094-A and S. 9039-A, takes effect.

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

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