

STATE OF NEW YORK

6599

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 18, 2025

Introduced by Sens. JACKSON, HOYLMAN-SIGAL -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to permitting assessment of certain fees and costs upon wrongful denial of access to records under the freedom of information law

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 453 of the laws of 2017, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (c) The court in such a proceeding: (i) may assess, against such agen-
5 cy involved, reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs
6 reasonably incurred by such person in any case under the provisions of
7 this [~~section~~] article in which such person has substantially prevailed,
8 [~~and when~~] or in which the agency failed to respond to a request or
9 appeal within the statutory time; and (ii) shall assess, against such
10 agency involved, reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs
11 reasonably incurred by such person in any case under the provisions of
12 this [~~section~~] article in which such person has substantially prevailed
13 and the court finds that the agency had no reasonable basis for denying
14 access. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to abridge or deny
15 any right or remedy available under article eighty-six of the civil
16 practice law and rules.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of September next
18 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

LBD11124-01-5