

2020 Memorandum in Support

Bill: A121-A by Assembly Member Buchwald and S1630-B by Senator Skoufis.

Title: Relates to publishing records of public interest by agencies and the legislature.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.

This legislation would amend the public officers law, in relation to publishing records of public interest by agencies and the state legislature. The legislation requires each agency and house of the state legislature to publish records proactively on its website that are, or are likely to be of substantial interest to the public and that are already available under the freedom of information law. The legislation also provides for protection of personal privacy, and for removal of records from websites when in the determination of the posting agency, there is no longer a substantial interest to the public or when they have reached the end of their legal retention period.

This legislation ensures that public records are published on-line proactively by agencies. The legislation will make it easier for the public who would otherwise need to request records through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request.¹ The legislation will also make it easier for public officials who will simply be able to refer individuals requesting information to a website where the information will be posted.

This legislation is a good step toward creating and maintaining a responsive and transparent government.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.

¹ <https://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/foil2.html>