•	for Public Reco	not for ords	Request Form lote: Requestors are trequired to use this rm. The County may complete one for recordkeeping if not used.
Michigan Freedom of Information Act	, PUDIIC ACI 442 UI	1 1970, NICE 15.231, 6	el seq.
Request No.: Date Received:	Check if	received via:Èmail Other Ele	Fax ectronic Method
Date <u>delivered</u> to junk/spam folder: Date <u>discovered</u> in junk/spam folder:		ype)	
Name		Phone	
Firm/Organization		Fax	
Street		Email	
City	State	Zip	
Request for: Copy Certified copy regular basis	Record inspection	Subscription to rec	ord issued on
Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make of address above Deliver on digital media provided by the County:	wn copies o n site	Mail to address above	Email to

Note: The County is not required to provide records in a digital format or on digital media if the County does not already have the technological capability to do so.

Describe the public record(s) as specifically as possible. You may use this form or attach additional sheets:

Consent to Non-Statutory Extension of County's Response Time

I have requested a copy of records or a subscription to records or the opportunity to inspect records, pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of

Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq.* I understand that the County must respond to this request within five (5) business days after receiving it, and that response may include taking a 10-business day extension. However, I hereby agree and stipulate to extend the County's response time for this request until: ______ (*month, day, year*).

Requestor's Signature

Date

(Complete both sides)

Records Located on Website

If the County directly or indirectly administers or maintains an official internet presence, any public records available to the general public on that internet site at the time the request is made are exempt from any labor charges to redact (*separate exempt information from non-exempt information*).

If the FOIA coordinator knows or has reason to know that all or a portion of the requested information is available on its website, the County must notify the Requestor in its written response that all or a portion of the requested information is available on its website. The written response, to the degree practicable in the specific instance, must include a specific webpage address where the requested information is available. On the detailed cost itemization form, the County must separate the requested public records that are available on its website from those that are not available on the website and must inform the requestor of the additional charge to receive copies of the public records that are available on its website.

If the County has included the website address for a record in its written response to the Requestor and the Requestor thereafter stipulates that the public record be provided to him or her in a paper format or other form, including digital media, the County must provide the public records in the specified format (if the County has the technological capability) but may use a fringe benefit multiplier greater than the 50%, not to exceed the actual costs of providing the information in the specified format.

Request for Copies/Duplication of Records on County Website

I hereby stipulate that,	even if some or all	of the records are	e located on the County webs	site, I am requesting that the
County make copies o	f those records on t	the website and de	eliver them to me in the form	at I have requested above. I
understand that some	FOIA fees may app	oly.		-

Requestor's Signature	Date
Overtime Labor Costs	
Overtime wages shall not be included in the calculation of labor costs unless overtime is specifically requestor and clearly noted on the detailed cost itemization form.	stipulated by the
Consent to Overtime Labor Costs	
I hereby agree and stipulate to the County using overtime wages in calculating the following labor costs as	s itemized in the
following categories:	
1. Labor to copy/duplicate 2. Labor to locate 3a. Labor to redact	3b. 🗆
Contract labor to redact 6b. Labor to copy/duplicate records already on County's website	
Requestor's Signature	Date

Request for Discount: Indigence	
A public record search must be made and a copy of a public record must be furnished without charge for	
the first \$20.00 of the fee for each	
request by an individual who is entitled to information under this act and who:	
 Submits an affidavit stating that the individual is indigent and receiving specific public assistance, OR 	
 If not receiving public assistance, stating facts showing inability to pay the cost because of indigence. 	
If a Requestor is ineligible for the discount, the public body shall inform the requestor specifically of the reason for ineligibility in the public body's written response.	
An individual is ineligible for this fee reduction if ANY of the following apply:	
(i) The individual has previously received discounted copies of public records from the same public body twice	
during that calendar year,	
(ii) The individual requests the information in conjunction with outside parties who are offering or providing	
	emuneration
to the individual to make the request. A public body may require a statement by the requestor in the affidavit	
that the re	being
made in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment or other remuneration.	
Office Heavy Affide it Descined	
Office Use: Affidavit Received Eligible for Discount Ineligible for Discount I am submitting an affidavit and requesting that I receive the discount for indigence for this FOIA request:	Deter
Tam submitting an andavit and requesting that receive the discount for indigence for this POIA request.	Date:
Requestor's Signature:	
Request for Discount: Nonprofit Organization	
	e fee for
	ach
request by a nonprofit organization formally designated by the state to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental D	disabilities
Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness	meets ALL
Act, if the request m	of the
following requirements:	
(i) Is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients.	
	il Health
section 931 of the Ment 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931.	Code,
(iii) Is accompanied by documentation of its designation by the state, if requested by the County.	
Office Use: Documentation of State Designation Received Eligible for Discount	
Ineligible for Discount	
I stipulate that I am a designated agent for the nonprofit organization making this FOIA request and that this	Date:
request is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients and is made for a reason wholly consistent	
with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258,	
MCL 330.1931:	
Requestor's Signature:	
(Form created by MTA, MAMA and CS&T, PC, May 2015)	
County: Keep original and Extension Form provide copy of both sides,	

to

along wit	n Public	Summary,
-----------	----------	----------

Requestor at no charge.

Notice to Extend Response Time for FOIA Request Michigan Freedom of Information Act Public Act 442 of 1976 MCI 15 231 at seg

Request No.:	Date Received:	Check	if received via: Fax Other Electror	Email hic Method
Date of This Notice:		Date <u>c</u>	<u>delivered</u> to junk/spam fold	
(Please Print or Type)		Date <u>c</u>	<u>liscovered</u> in junk/spam fo	older:
Name			Phone	
Firm/Organization			Fax	
Street			Email	
City		State	Zip	
Request for: Copy regular basis		Record inspection	Subscription to reco	ord issued on
Delivery Method: W address above	/ill pick up□ Will mak		Mail to address above	Email to
Deliver on digital med	dia provided by the Cour	nty:		
Record(s) You Reques	ted: (Listed here or see	attached copy of origir	nal request)	

We are extending the date to respond to your FOIA request for no more than 10 business days, until (month, day, year).

Only one extension may be taken per FOIA request. If you have any questions regarding this extension, contact

_____ at

Estimated Time Frame to Provide Records: ______ (days or date)

The time frame estimate is nonbinding upon the County, but the County is providing the estimate in good faith. Providing an estimated time frame does not relieve a public body from any of the other requirements of this act.

Reason for Extension:

□ **1.** The County needs to search for, collect, or appropriately examine or review a voluminous amount of separate and distinct public records pursuant to your request. Specifically, the County must:

2. The County needs to collect the requested public records from numerous field offices, facilities, or other establishments that are located apart from the County office. Specifically, the County must coordinate documents from the following locations:

L	3. Other (describe):	

Signature of FOIA Coordinator:

Date:

(Form created by MTA, MAMA and CS&T, PC, May 2015)

[This page left blank on purpose.]

County: Keep original and Denial Form

provide copy of both sides,

along with Public Summary,

to Requestor at no charge.

Notice of Denial of FOIA Request Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq*.

Date Received:	Check		Email
	Date <u>c</u>		
	Date <u>c</u>	<u>discovered</u> in junk/spam fold	er:
		Phone	
		Fax	
		Email	
	State	Zip	
Certified copy□ F	Record inspection	Subscription to record	issued on
rovided by the County:		Mail to address above	Email to
ns regarding this d	enial, contact Reason for De	nial:	at
	Certified copy F Certified copy F Ck up Will make ov Provided by the County: (Listed here or see attandary (Listed here or see attandary) (Listed here or see attandary)	Date of Date o	Fax Other Electronic Date delivered to junk/spam folder Date discovered in junk/spam fold Phone Fax Email Email Certified copy□ Record inspection State Zip Certified copy□ Record inspection State Zip Certified copy□ Record inspection Subscription to record ck up□ Will make own copies onsite Mail to address above rovided by the County:

2. Record Does Not Exist: This item does not exist under the name provided in your request or by another name reasonably known to the County. A certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given is attached. If you believe this record

does exist, provide a description that will enable us to locate the record:

3. **Redaction:** A portion of the requested record had to be separated or deleted (redacted) as it is exempt under FOIA Section 13, Subsection ______ *(insert number)*, because:

A brief description of the information that had to be separated or deleted:

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the County Board of Commissioners or to commence an action in the Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the Court determines that the County has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator:

Date:

(Form created by MTA, MAMA and CS&T, PC, May 2015)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT) Act 442 of 1976

15.240.amended Options by requesting person; appeal; actions by public body; receipt of written appeal; judicial review; civil action; venue; de novo proceeding; burden of proof; private view of public record; contempt; assignment of action or appeal for hearing, trial, or argument; attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements; assessment of award; damages.

Sec. 10.

(1) If a public body makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a request, the requesting person may do 1 of the following at his or her option:

(a)Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the denial.

(b)Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, the court of claims, to compel the public body's disclosure of the public records within 180 days after a public body's final determination to deny a request.

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal pursuant to subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:

(a)Reverse the disclosure denial.

(b)Issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial.

(c)Reverse the disclosure denial in part and issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial in part.

(d)Under unusual circumstances, issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body shall respond to the written appeal. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.

(3) A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a). If the head of the public body fails to respond to a written appeal pursuant to subsection (2), or if the head of the public body upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action under subsection (1)(b).

(4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure shall order the public body to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located has venue over the action. The court shall determine the matter de novo and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial. The court, on its own motion, may view the public record in controversy in private before reaching a decision. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

(5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(6) If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under this section, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or public body prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).

(7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

History: 1976, Act 442, Eff. Apr. 13, 1977 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 329, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1978 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 553, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997 ;--Am. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015

County : Keep original and Denial Appeal Form

provide copy of both sides, to Requestor at no charge.

along with Public Summary,

FOIA Appeal Form—To Appeal a Denial of Records Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq*.

Request No.:	Date Received:	Check if received via:	Email
Date of This Notice:		Fax Other Electronic Method Date <u>delivered</u> to junk/spam folder:	1
(Please Print or Type)		Date discovered in junk/spam folder:	

Name	Phone
Firm/Organization	Fax
Street	Email
City	State Zip
Request for:CopyCertified copy□Fregular basis□□	Lecord inspection Subscription to record issued on
Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make ov address above	In copies onsite Mail to address above Email to
Deliver on digital me	dia provided by the County:

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request)

Reason(s) for Appeal:

The appeal must identify the reason(s) for the denial. You may use this form or attach additional sheets:

Requestor's Signature:

County Response:

Date:

The County must provide a response within 10 business days after receiving this appeal, including a determination or taking one 10-day extension.

County Extension: We are extending the date to respond to your FOIA fee appeal for no more than 10 business days, until ______ (*month, day, year*). Only one extension may be taken per FOIA appeal. Unusual circumstances warranting extension:

If you have any questions regarding this extension, contact:

County Determination:

Denial Reversed	Denial Upheld 🗆	Denial Reversed in Part and Upheld in Part
The following previous	ly denied records w	ill be released:

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the County Board of Commissioners or to commence an action in the Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the Court determines that the County has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (*See back of this form for additional information on your rights.*)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator:

(Form created by MTA, MAMA and CS&T, PC, May 2015)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT) Act 442 of 1976

Date:

15.240.amended Options by requesting person; appeal; actions by public body; receipt of written appeal; judicial review; civil action; venue; de novo proceeding; burden of proof; private view of public record; contempt; assignment of action or appeal for hearing, trial, or argument; attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements; assessment of award; damages.

Sec. 10.

(1) If a public body makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a request, the requesting person may do 1 of the following at his or her option:

- (a)Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the denial.
- (b)Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, the court of claims, to compel the public body's disclosure of the public records within 180 days after a public body's final determination to deny a request.

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal pursuant to subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:

(a)Reverse the disclosure denial.

- (b)Issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial.
- (c)Reverse the disclosure denial in part and issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial in part.
- (d)Under unusual circumstances, issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body shall respond to the written appeal. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.

(3) A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a). If the head of the public body fails to respond to a written appeal pursuant to subsection (2), or if the head of the public body upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action under subsection (1)(b).

(4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure shall order the public body to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located has venue over the action. The court shall determine the matter de novo and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial. The court, on its own motion, may view the public record in controversy in private before reaching a decision. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

(5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(6) If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under this section, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or public body prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).

(7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

History: 1976, Act 442, Eff. Apr. 13, 1977 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 329, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1978 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 553, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015.

County : Keep original and Fee Appeal Form

provide copy of both sides, Requestor at no charge. along with Public Sumary, to

FOIA Appeal Form—To Appeal an Excess Fee Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq*.

Request No.:	Date Received:	Check if received Fax	∃via: □ Other Electronic Metho	Email
Date of This Notice:			junk/spam folder:	<i>i</i> u
(Please Print or Type)		Date <u>discovered</u>	in junk/spam folder:	

Name	Phone
Firm/Organization	Fax
Street	Email

City			State Zip	
	Сору	Certified copy	Record inspection	n
	ord issued on regula			F
Delivery Method:⊢ address above		Will make own copies onsite	Mail to address above	Email to
	D	eliver on digital media provide	d by the County:	
Record(s) You Re	quested: (Listed he	re or see attached copy of ori	ginal request)	
		Reason(s) for App	eal:	
The appeal must sp attach additional sh		w the required fee(s) exceed	the amount permitted. You ma	ay use this form or
Requestor's Signa	ature:		Det	_
Requestor's Signa	ature:		Date	e:
Requestor's Sign 	ature: 			e:
The County must p	provide a response w	County Respons vithin 10 business days after re		
The County must p taking one 10-day o County Extension until	provide a response w extension. I: We are extending	the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may	e: eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th	a determination or
The County must p taking one 10-day of County Extension until Unusual circumstar	orovide a response w extension. : We are extending (month, day, y nces warranting extending	the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may	e: eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th	a determination or
The County must p taking one 10-day of County Extension until Unusual circumstar	orovide a response wextension. We are extending (month, day, y nces warranting extending estions regarding thi	the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may ension:	e: eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th	a determination or
The County must p taking one 10-day of County Extension until Unusual circumstan If you have any que	orovide a response wextension. We are extending (month, day, y nces warranting extending estions regarding thi	ithin 10 business days after re the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may ension: s extension, contact:	eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th be taken per FOIA appeal.	a determination or
The County must p taking one 10-day of County Extension until Unusual circumstan If you have any que County Determina	brovide a response wextension. We are extending (month, day, y) mces warranting extending estions regarding thi mtion: Fee Wa	ithin 10 business days after re the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may ension: s extension, contact:	eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th be taken per FOIA appeal.	a determination or
The County must p taking one 10-day of County Extension until Unusual circumstan If you have any que	brovide a response wextension. We are extending (month, day, y) mces warranting extending estions regarding thi mtion: Fee Wa	ithin 10 business days after re the date to respond to your F ear). Only one extension may ension: s extension, contact:	eceiving this appeal, including OIA fee appeal for no more th be taken per FOIA appeal.	a determination or

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10a of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240a, to appeal a FOIA fee that you believe exceeds the amount permitted under the County's written Procedures and Guidelines to the County Board of Commissioners or to commence an action in the Circuit Court for a fee reduction within 45 days after receiving the notice of the required fee or a determination of an appeal to the County Board of Commissioners. If a civil action is commenced in court, the County is not obligated to compete processing the request until the Court resolves the fee dispute. If the Court

determines that the County required a fee that exceeded the permitted amount, the Court shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator:

Date:

(Form created by MTA, MAMA and CS&T, PC, May 2015)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT) Act 442 of 1976

15.240a.added Fee in excess of amount permitted under procedures and guidelines or MCL 15.234. Sec. 10a.

(1) If a public body requires a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures and guidelines or section 4, the requesting person may do any of the following:

(a) If the public body provides for fee appeals to the head of the public body in its publicly available procedures and guidelines, submit to the head of the public body a written appeal for a fee reduction that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted under the public body's available procedures and guidelines or section 4.

(b) Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, in the court of claims, for a fee reduction. The action must be filed within 45 days after receiving the notice of the required fee or a determination of an appeal to the head of a public body. If a civil action is commenced against the public body under this subdivision, the public body is not obligated to complete the processing of the written request for the public record at issue until the court resolves the fee dispute. An action shall not be filed under this subdivision unless 1 of the following applies:

(i) The public body does not provide for appeals under subdivision (a).

(ii) The head of the public body failed to respond to a written appeal as required under subsection (2).

(iii) The head of the public body issued a determination to a written appeal as required under subsection (2).

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal under subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:

- (a)Waive the fee.
- (b)Reduce the fee and issue a written determination to the requesting person indicating the specific basis under section 4 that supports the remaining fee. The determination shall include a certification from the head of the public body that the statements in the determination are accurate and that the reduced fee amount complies with its publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4.
- (c)Uphold the fee and issue a written determination to the requesting person indicating the specific basis under section 4 that supports the required fee. The determination shall include a certification from the head of the public body that the statements in the determination are accurate and that the fee amount complies with the public body's publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4.
- (d)Issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body must respond to the written appeal. The notice of extension shall include a detailed reason or reasons why the extension is necessary. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.
- (3)A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a).
- (4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines the public body required a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures and guidelines or section 4 shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located. The court shall determine the matter de novo, and the burden is on the public body to establish that the required fee complies with its publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.
- (5)An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

- (6) If the requesting person prevails in an action commenced under this section by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).
- (7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by charging an excessive fee, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$500.00, which shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury. The court may also award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$500.00 to the person seeking the fee reduction. The fine and any damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.
- (8)As used in this section, "fee" means the total fee or any component of the total fee calculated under section 4, including any deposit.

History: Add. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015