



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4444

Introduced 1/20/2026, by Rep. Daniel Didech

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 140/6

from Ch. 116, par. 206

Amends the Freedom of Information Act. Provides that a public body may charge the actual cost (rather than up to \$10) for each hour spent by personnel in searching for and retrieving a requesting record or in examining the record for necessary redactions. Specifies that no fees shall be charged for the first 2 hours (rather than the first 8 hours) spent by personnel searching for or retrieving a requested record. Deletes a provision that limits the applicability of these cost recovery provisions to commercial requests.

LRB104 16721 BDA 30127 b

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Freedom of Information Act is amended by
5 changing Section 6 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 140/6) (from Ch. 116, par. 206)

7 Sec. 6. Authority to charge fees.

8 (a) When a person requests a copy of a record maintained in
9 an electronic format, the public body shall furnish it in the
10 electronic format specified by the requester, if feasible. If
11 it is not feasible to furnish the public records in the
12 specified electronic format, then the public body shall
13 furnish it in the format in which it is maintained by the
14 public body, or in paper format at the option of the requester.
15 A public body may charge the requester for the actual cost of
16 purchasing the recording medium, whether disc, diskette, tape,
17 or other medium. If a request is not a request for a commercial
18 purpose or a voluminous request, a public body may not charge
19 the requester for the costs of any search for and review of the
20 records or other personnel costs associated with reproducing
21 the records. Except to the extent that the General Assembly
22 expressly provides, statutory fees applicable to copies of
23 public records when furnished in a paper format shall not be

1 applicable to those records when furnished in an electronic
2 format.

3 (a-5) If a voluminous request is for electronic records
4 and those records are not in a portable document format (PDF),
5 the public body may charge up to \$20 for not more than 2
6 megabytes of data, up to \$40 for more than 2 but not more than
7 4 megabytes of data, and up to \$100 for more than 4 megabytes
8 of data. If a voluminous request is for electronic records and
9 those records are in a portable document format, the public
10 body may charge up to \$20 for not more than 80 megabytes of
11 data, up to \$40 for more than 80 megabytes but not more than
12 160 megabytes of data, and up to \$100 for more than 160
13 megabytes of data. If the responsive electronic records are in
14 both a portable document format and not in a portable document
15 format, the public body may separate the fees and charge the
16 requester under both fee scales.

17 If a public body imposes a fee pursuant to this subsection
18 (a-5), it must provide the requester with an accounting of all
19 fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with the
20 request for public records.

21 (b) Except when a fee is otherwise fixed by statute, each
22 public body may charge fees reasonably calculated to reimburse
23 its actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records
24 and for the use, by any person, of the equipment of the public
25 body to copy records. No fees shall be charged for the first 50
26 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies

1 requested by a requester. The fee for black and white, letter
2 or legal sized copies shall not exceed 15 cents per page. If a
3 public body provides copies in color or in a size other than
4 letter or legal, the public body may not charge more than its
5 actual cost for reproducing the records. In calculating its
6 actual cost for reproducing records or for the use of the
7 equipment of the public body to reproduce records, a public
8 body shall not include the costs of any search for and review
9 of the records or other personnel costs associated with
10 reproducing the records, except for commercial requests as
11 provided in subsection (f) of this Section. Such fees shall be
12 imposed according to a standard scale of fees, established and
13 made public by the body imposing them. The cost for certifying
14 a record shall not exceed \$1.

15 (c) Documents shall be furnished without charge or at a
16 reduced charge, as determined by the public body, if the
17 person requesting the documents states the specific purpose
18 for the request and indicates that a waiver or reduction of the
19 fee is in the public interest. Waiver or reduction of the fee
20 is in the public interest if the principal purpose of the
21 request is to access and disseminate information regarding the
22 health, safety and welfare or the legal rights of the general
23 public and is not for the principal purpose of personal or
24 commercial benefit. For purposes of this subsection,
25 "commercial benefit" shall not apply to requests made by news
26 media when the principal purpose of the request is to access

1 and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and
2 welfare or the legal rights of the general public. In setting
3 the amount of the waiver or reduction, the public body may take
4 into consideration the amount of materials requested and the
5 cost of copying them.

6 (d) The imposition of a fee not consistent with
7 subsections (6) (a) and (b) of this Act constitutes a denial of
8 access to public records for the purposes of judicial review.

9 (e) The fee for each abstract of a driver's record shall be
10 as provided in Section 6-118 of "The Illinois Vehicle Code",
11 approved September 29, 1969, as amended, whether furnished as
12 a paper copy or as an electronic copy.

13 (f) A public body may charge the actual cost ~~up to \$10~~ for
14 each hour spent by personnel in searching for and retrieving a
15 requested record or examining the record for necessary
16 redactions. No fees shall be charged for the first 2 ~~8~~ hours
17 spent by personnel in searching for or retrieving a requested
18 record. A public body may charge the actual cost of retrieving
19 and transporting public records from an off-site storage
20 facility when the public records are maintained by a
21 third-party storage company under contract with the public
22 body. If a public body imposes a fee pursuant to this
23 subsection (f), it must provide the requester with an
24 accounting of all fees, costs, and personnel hours in
25 connection with the request for public records. ~~The provisions~~
26 ~~of this subsection (f) apply only to commercial requests.~~

1 (Source: P.A. 97-579, eff. 8-26-11; 98-1129, eff. 12-3-14.)