

RESOLUTION 2023-3

A Resolution of the Donegal Township, Washington County, Board of Supervisors

BE IT RESOLVED that the Donegal Township Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with the Washington County Association of Township Officials, shall pursue all available legislative and judicial means by which the Pennsylvania Right-To-Know Law (65 P.S. § 67.101, et seq.) may be amended, revised, or repealed to the extent necessary in order to enhance protections for local agencies from requestors and requests intended only to burden and financially harm the receiving agency, to include legal fees, other professional fees, administrative costs, and overhead costs. Though the Pennsylvania legislature and the Office of Open Records have acknowledged that requestors “should not” abuse the Right-To Know Law for these purposes, there presently exists little to no enforcement mechanism to prevent:

- Repetitive requests;
- Multiple requests from the same requestor in the same time period, which requests may include information sought in other pending requests;
- Requests seeking information already in the possession of the requestor;
- Untimely appeals, including appeals of requests that have not been acted upon and are still within the statutory period for a response from the agency;
- Appeals from denials based upon the non-existence of records, even though these appeals only serve to further burden the agency with legal fees and administrative costs.

Though Donegal Township and the Washington County Association of Township Officials are committed to governmental transparency and do not wish to limit the access of citizens to

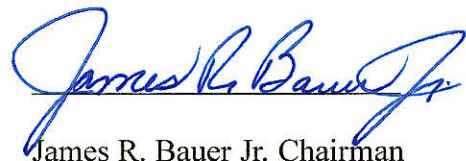
public information sought for legitimate purposes, the Right-To-Know Law should not be a tool for pursuit of personal or political grievances or opposition, and changes must be made to the law to prevent this from occurring.

ATTEST:

DONEGAL TOWNSHIP



Jamie M. Schaller Secretary/Treasurer



James R. Bauer Jr. Chairman