



**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT – S.3020 (Valesky)/A.6382 (Destito)
March 23, 2009**

Title

An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to records requested through electronic mail.

Summary

This bill amends section 95 of the public officers law to mandate that agencies – that have the capacity to do so – accept and respond to requests under the Freedom of Information Law via electronic mail.

Statement of Support

Citizens Union supports A.6382/S.3020 because it would substantially ease the freedom of information request process. Requiring agencies – with the means to do so – to electronically accept and respond to freedom of information law requests will reduce agencies' operational costs and efforts, as well as reduce reproduction costs for citizens and, hopefully, the amount of time they must wait for important government records. We believe that this is a common sense change, and is an important step toward increasing the efficiency and transparency of government operations.

We urge the Senate to promptly pass this legislation, which was recently passed by the Assembly. Citizens Union appreciates the opportunity to share its views and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislature to improve the process for handling public information requests in government bodies.