



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Res 0517-2004 **Version:** * **Name:** Enact the Sunshine in Litigation Act

Type: Resolution **Status:** Filed

In control: Committee on State and Federal Legislation

On agenda: 8/12/2004

Enactment date: **Enactment #:**

Title: Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to enact the Sunshine In Litigation Act, A-07017 and S-2995-A, an act that would prohibit settlement agreements that conceal a public hazard or any information that would conceal a public hazard.

Sponsors: Margarita Lopez, Lewis A. Fidler, Alan J. Gerson, James Sanders, Jr., Helen D. Foster, Robert Jackson

Indexes:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
8/12/2004	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
8/12/2004	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
12/31/2005	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 517

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to enact the Sunshine In Litigation Act, A-07017 and S-2995-A, an act that would prohibit settlement agreements that conceal a public hazard or any information that would conceal a public hazard.

By Council Members Lopez, Fidler, Gerson, Sanders, Foster and Jackson

Whereas, Secrecy agreements that conceal public hazards undermine the civil justice system, endanger New Yorkers, and have a corrosive effect on public confidence in the courts; and

Whereas, Defendants in civil suits, particularly product liability suits, often demand, as a condition for any settlement, that information discovered in the course of the suit not be released to the public; and

Whereas, The recent controversy surrounding Firestone tires underscores the need to protect against such secrecy agreements; and

Whereas, Although victims of accidents involving Firestone tires initiated suit against the company in

1992, the tires were not recalled until 2000; and

Whereas, During the interim, dozens of lawsuits were settled out of court in which Firestone demanded and obtained secrecy orders; and

Whereas, These secrecy orders prevented essential information on public safety from being released and led to unnecessary injuries and death; and

Whereas, Other secrecy agreements have resulted from suits regarding asbestos, silicone breast implants, and synthetic estrogen; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to enact the Sunshine In Litigation Act, A-07017 and S-2995-A, an act that would prohibit settlement agreements that conceal a public hazard or any information that would conceal a public hazard.

LS# 1135
RBU
06/25/2004