

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1142

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the general construction law, in relation to requiring the use of gender-neutral terms in law

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 22 of the general construction law, as added by  
2 chapter 730 of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 22. Gender. Whenever words of the masculine or feminine gender  
4 appear in any law, rule or regulation, unless the sense of the sentence  
5 indicates otherwise, they shall be deemed to refer to [~~both male or~~  
6 ~~female~~] persons of any gender. This construction shall apply to gender  
7 indicative suffixes or prefixes as well as to gender indicative words.  
8 Whenever the reference is to a corporation, board, body, group, organ-  
9 ization or other entity comprising more than one person or to an assem-  
10 blage of persons or to an inanimate object the reference shall be  
11 construed to be neuter in gender. Hereafter, in any law, rule, regu-  
12 lation, ordinance or resolution, gendered terms shall not be used and  
13 gender-neutral terms, including but not limited to "they", "them" and  
14 "theirs", shall be used in substitution therefor and with the same force  
15 and effect; provided, however, if such law, rule, regulation, ordinance  
16 or resolution is in reference to a specific person, the language refer-  
17 ring to such person shall be gendered in accordance with the gender  
18 identity of such person.

19 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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