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:

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

§ 22. Gender. Whenever words of the masculine or feminine gender appear in any law, rule or regulation, unless the sense of the sentence indicates otherwise, they shall be deemed to refer to [~~both male or female~~] persons **of any gender**. This construction shall apply to gender indicative suffixes or prefixes as well as to gender indicative words. Whenever the reference is to a corporation, board, body, group, organization or other entity comprising more than one person or to an assemblage of persons or to an inanimate object the reference shall be construed to be neuter in gender. **Hereafter, in any law, rule, regulation, ordinance or resolution, gendered terms shall not be used and gender-neutral terms, including but not limited to "they", "them" and "theirs", shall be used in substitution therefor and with the same force and effect; provided, however, if such law, rule, regulation, ordinance or resolution is in reference to a specific person, the language referring to such person shall be gendered in accordance with the gender identity of such person.**

§ 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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