

STATE OF NEW YORK

8547

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2024

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 amended by a
2 chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the general construction law relat-
3 ing to requiring the use of gender-neutral terms in law, as proposed in
4 legislative bills numbers S. 155 and A. 1142, is amended to read as
5 follows:

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

22 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
23 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the general
24 construction law relating to requiring the use of gender-neutral terms
25 in law, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 155 and A. 1142,
26 takes effect.

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

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