STATE OF NEW YORK

155

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2023

Introduced by Sens. KRUEGER, HOYLMAN, JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

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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