

STATE OF NEW YORK

8074

IN SENATE

January 5, 2024

Introduced by Sen. KRUEGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

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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