
Judiciary Committee

SB 5045

Title: An act relating to making technical corrections to gender-based terms.

Brief Description: Making technical corrections to gender-based terms.

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles, Conway, Holmquist Newbry, Keiser, Kline, King and Chase;
by request of Statute Law Committee.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amends numerous sections in the code to make them gender-neutral.

Hearing Date: 3/9/11

Staff: Trudes Tango (786-7384).

Background:

Since 1983 state law requires that all statutes be written in gender-neutral terms, unless a specification of gender is intended. In 2007 the Legislature passed ESB 5063, an act relating to removing gender references. The Legislature directed the Code Reviser, in consultation with the Statute Law Committee, to implement a plan to correct gender-specific references in the entire RCW. The Code Reviser must make annual legislative recommendations to make the RCW gender-neutral by June 30, 2015.

Summary of Bill:

Gender-specific terms and references are made gender-neutral in several Titles of the RCW. For example, references to man or men are changed to person or persons, chairman is changed to chair, warehouseman is changed to warehouse operator, and the phrase "his or her" is used. In a few sections, other technical changes are made to correct cross-references and correct misspellings.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.