

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5077

PARTIAL VETO C 23 L 13 Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Holmquist Newbry and Keiser; by request of Statute Law Committee).

Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor
House Committee on Judiciary

Background: Since 1983 state law has required 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 act changed gender-specific terms to gender-neutral terms in several chapters of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), including those chapters dealing with firefighters, police officers, bondspersons, and material suppliers. The Legislature directed the Code Reviser, in consultation with the Statute Law Committee, to develop and implement a plan to correct gender-specific references in the entire RCW. The Code Reviser must make annual legislative recommendations to make the RCW completely gender-neutral by June 30, 2015.

Summary: Gender-specific terms and references are made gender-neutral in several RCW Titles. For example, references to his are changed to his or her and clergyman is changed to member of the clergy. Titles relating to public service are included and made gender-neutral throughout.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	70	22

Effective: July 28, 2013
December 1, 2013 (Section 43)

Partial Veto Summary: The Governor vetoed two sections of the bill that were duplicated.

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.