

**NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signature of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.**

# An Act

HOUSE BILL 10-1137

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gardner B., Acree, Apuan, Casso, Court, DelGrosso, Fischer, Frangas, Hullinghorst, Kefalas, Kerr A., Labuda, Levy, Merrifield, Primavera, Riesberg, Schafer S., Soper, Todd, Waller, Kerr J., Massey, McFadyen, Pace, Priola, Carroll T.;  
also SENATOR(S) Steadman, Bacon, Boyd, Hudak, Newell, Williams.

CONCERNING THE USE OF PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFTING OF LAWS.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** Part 8 of article 2 of title 2, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**2-2-802. People first language in state laws.** (1) ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, ALL NEW OR AMENDED STATUTES THAT REFER TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL:

(a) AVOID LANGUAGE THAT:

(I) IMPLIES THAT A PERSON AS A WHOLE IS DISABLED, SUCH AS THE "MENTALLY ILL" OR THE "LEARNING DISABLED"; OR

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

(II) EQUATES PERSONS WITH THEIR CONDITION, SUCH AS "EPILEPTICS", "AUTISTICS", OR "QUADRIPLÉGICS"; AND

(b) REPLACE DISRESPECTFUL LANGUAGE BY REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AS PERSONS FIRST. EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, AND PERSONS WITH AUTISM;

(c) REPLACE DISRESPECTFUL, INSENSITIVE, OR OUTDATED TERMS SUCH AS "MENTAL RETARDATION" WITH PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE SUCH AS "PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES".

(2) VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE GROUNDS TO INVALIDATE ANY NEW OR AMENDED STATUTE; HOWEVER, SUCH STATUTES SHALL BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IN ANY SUBSEQUENT REVISION.

(3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL CONSTITUTE A REQUIREMENT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ANY DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM OF THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE.

(4) THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IS AUTHORIZED TO CHANGE ANY DISRESPECTFUL, INSENSITIVE, OR OUTDATED TERMS THAT APPEAR IN THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES AND TO REPLACE SUCH TERMS WITH PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

**SECTION 2.** 24-4-103, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

**24-4-103. Rule-making - procedure - repeal.** (8.3) (a) ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (8.3), ALL NEW OR AMENDED RULES OR REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT REFER TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-2-802, C.R.S., AS APPLICABLE TO THE NEW OR AMENDED RULE.

(b) VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (8.3) SHALL NOT BE GROUNDS TO INVALIDATE ANY NEW OR AMENDED RULE; HOWEVER, SUCH RULES SHALL BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-2-802, C.R.S., IN ANY

SUBSEQUENT REVISION.

(c) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (8.3) SHALL CONSTITUTE A REQUIREMENT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ANY DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM OF THE STATE.

**SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect unless

approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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Terrance D. Carroll  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Brandon C. Shaffer  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO