

SENATE No. 2012

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act requiring equality in state documents.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Harriette L. Chandler</i> | <i>First Worcester</i> | |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/25/2021</i> |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> | <i>2/26/2021</i> |

SENATE No. 2012

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2012) of Harriette L. Chandler, Kay Khan and Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation relative to gender equality requirement in state documents. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1805 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act requiring equality in state documents.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. As used in this section the following words shall have the following
2 meanings:-

3 “Agency”, a commonwealth authority, including a quasi-public independent entity
4 performing a public function that does not receive direct appropriations from the commonwealth,
5 board, bureau, commission, department, division, executive office, institution, institution of
6 higher education, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the state treasurer, the state auditor,
7 the administrative office of the trial courts, trial court departments, the supreme judicial court,
8 the appeals court, the governor's office, lieutenant governor's office, the governor's council, the
9 Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the house of representatives and the senate.

10 No later than six months after the passage of this act, the Massachusetts Commission on
11 LGBTQ Youth shall produce guidelines, hereinafter referred to as “the guidelines”, regarding
12 gender appropriate language to use to reference gender on Agency forms and documents. Such
13 guidance shall include in the elimination of the terms “mother” and “father” on all state
14 documentation, to be replaced with “parent 1” and “parent 2”. Such guidance shall require that
15 language is gender neutral where possible.

16 No later than one year after the passage of this act, each Agency shall, subject to
17 appropriation, review documentation and forms for which they have authority, and update said
18 documentation and forms to conform with the guidelines.

19 SECTION 2. Section 16 of chapter 46 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
20 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end, the following paragraph:-

21 “The state registrar shall ensure that any form or other materials approved by the registrar
22 use gender appropriate language to reference gender and is gender neutral where possible. The
23 registrar may utilize guidelines created by the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth or
24 any other relevant guidelines in making such a determination.”