

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4876

To direct the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives to replace masculine pronouns and nouns in the United States Code with gender-neutral language, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2023

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives to replace masculine pronouns and nouns in the United States Code with gender-neutral language, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Equality in Laws Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE IN THE UNITED**
6 **STATES CODE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Law Revision Counsel of the
8 House of Representatives shall make such changes to the

1 titles of the United States Code as are necessary to replace
2 masculine pronouns and nouns in such titles with gender-
3 neutral language in each case in which such revisions and
4 amendments would not affect the substance or meaning
5 of the relevant titles, including—

6 (1) by striking “his” each place it appears and,
7 as required by the relevant context, inserting—

8 (A) “the individual’s”;

9 (B) the appropriate possessive form of the
10 noun to which the pronoun refers;

11 (C) “their” or “theirs”; or

12 (D) the appropriate possessive form of the
13 title of the position to which the pronoun refers;
14 and

15 (2) by striking “he” and “him” each place such
16 words appear and, as required by the relevant con-
17 text, inserting—

18 (A) “the individual”;

19 (B) the noun to which the pronoun refers;

20 (C) “they” or “them”; or

21 (D) the appropriate title of the position to
22 which the pronoun refers.

23 (b) REVISION OF POSITIVE LAW TITLES.—The Law
24 Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives shall,
25 pursuant to subsection (a), prepare and submit to the

1 Committee on the Judiciary such revisions in the titles of
2 the United States Code which have been enacted into posi-
3 tive law as may be necessary to strike masculine pronouns
4 and nouns and insert gender-neutral language in each case
5 in which such revisions conform to the understood policy,
6 intent, and purpose of the Congress in the original enact-
7 ments.

8 (c) AMENDMENT OF NONPOSITIVE LAW TITLES.—
9 The Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representa-
10 tives shall, pursuant to subsection (a), draft a bill to
11 amend the titles of the United States Code that have not
12 yet been enacted into positive law for the purpose of strik-
13 ing masculine pronouns and nouns and inserting gender-
14 neutral language in each case in which such amendments
15 conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of
16 the Congress in the original enactments.

17 (d) GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE DEFINED.—The
18 term “gender-neutral language” means language that ex-
19 pressly or implicitly refers to all genders without distinc-
20 tion between such genders and does not expressly or im-
21 plicitly refer to a gender to the real or apparent exclusion
22 of any other gender.

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