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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/09

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED _____ HB 198

SHORT TITLE Legislative Use of Gender-Neutral Language SB _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Attorney General's Office

No Response
Administrative Office of the Courts

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 198 requires the Legislative Council Service to use gender-neutral language in certain situations. The bill defines "gender-neutral" to mean "language that does not expressly or implicitly refer to one gender to the real or apparent exclusion of the other and expressly or implicitly refers to both genders without distinguishing between them..." The term "gender-specific" is defined to mean "language that expressly or implicitly refers to one gender to the real or apparent exclusion of the other or expressly or implicitly refers to both genders and distinguishes between them."

The Legislative Council Service publications affected include drafts of bills to enact, amend or revise laws, drafts of memorials, resolutions and other legislative documents. An exception is provided for language intended or required to be gender-specific in order to convey a specific meaning of the language.

The bill requires the Legislative Council Service to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language whenever current laws or other legislative publications are the subject of

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a request to the Legislative Council Service for amendment or revision.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications. This only affects the language used in legislative documents.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Attorney General's Office notes that this bill does not present any significant issues.

CH/mt/mc