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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Chasey ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/11
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 292
SHORT TITLE Gender-Neutral Language in Legis. Documents SB _____
ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 292 requires the Legislative Council Service to use gender-neutral language in certain situations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

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

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

In a previous session's analysis of similar legislation, the Attorney General's Office noted that the bill did not present any significant issues.

AHO/bym