

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6433

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, February 05, 2008

Title: An act relating to making technical changes to laws relating to labor regulations.

Brief Description: Making technical changes to laws relating to labor regulations.

Sponsors: Senators Murray, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Franklin and King.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce, Research & Development: 1/15/08.1/15/08, 2/5/08
[DPS]

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6433 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Keiser, Vice Chair; Holmquist, Ranking Minority Member; Franklin, Hewitt, King, Murray and Prentice.

Staff: Kathleen Buchli (786-7488)

Background: Since 1983, state law requires that all statutes, memorials, and resolutions be drafted in gender-neutral terms unless a specification of gender is intended. Since 2004, state law requires the use of respectful language when referring to individuals with disabilities.

The Code Reviser's Office publishes a Bill Drafting Guide to assist bill drafters in writing legislation. The guide lists general drafting principles that a drafter should follow, including use of plain language, respectful language, and gender-neutral language. The guide also lists words and phrases to be avoided by a drafter and suggests alternatives. For example, a drafter should avoid the phrase "is authorized to" and use "may" instead.

Title 49 RCW contains statutes relating to labor regulations. Many statutes have not been amended since the enactment of language requirements in 1983 and 2004, and some statutes date back to 1903.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

SUMMARY OF BILL (Recommended Substitute): Technical changes are made to Title 49 RCW. These technical changes include replacing gender-specific references with gender-neutral terms, inserting respectful language, removing obsolete dates, and using plain language as suggested by the guide.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (Recommended Substitute): Restores some language, for purposes of maintaining a historical record in code.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: This bill cleans up the code and makes technical changes. It is not controversial, but we need to get it done.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Kohl-Welles, prime sponsor.