

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1835**

Chapter 377, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

RCW--RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the House April 20, 2009  
Yeas 92 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2009  
Yeas 46 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved May 6, 2009, 2:26 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1835** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 8, 2009

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1835

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **61st Legislature**                      **2009 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Angel, Rolfes, Hinkle, Anderson, Haler, Short, Parker, Johnson, Bailey, Pedersen, and Warnick

Read first time 01/30/09. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to using respectful language in state laws;  
2 amending RCW 44.04.280; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 44.04.280 and 2004 c 175 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The legislature recognizes that language used in reference to  
7 individuals with disabilities shapes and reflects society's attitudes  
8 towards people with disabilities. Many of the terms currently used  
9 diminish the humanity and natural condition of having a disability.  
10 Certain terms are demeaning and create an invisible barrier to  
11 inclusion as equal community members. The legislature finds it  
12 necessary to clarify preferred language for new and revised laws by  
13 requiring the use of terminology that puts the person before the  
14 disability.

15            (2)(a) The code reviser is directed to avoid all references to:  
16 Disabled, developmentally disabled, mentally disabled, mentally ill,  
17 mentally retarded, handicapped, cripple, and crippled, in any new  
18 statute, memorial, or resolution, and to change such references in any

1 existing statute, memorial, or resolution as sections including these  
2 references are otherwise amended by law.

3 (b) The code reviser is directed to replace terms referenced in (a)  
4 of this subsection as appropriate with the following revised  
5 terminology: "Individuals with disabilities," "individuals with  
6 developmental disabilities," "individuals with mental illness," and  
7 "individuals with (~~mental retardation~~) intellectual disabilities."

8 (3) No statute, memorial, or resolution is invalid because it does  
9 not comply with this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The code reviser is directed to submit a  
11 recommendation to the legislature, in the form of a bill, concerning  
12 replacement of the phrase "mental retardation" with the phrase  
13 "intellectual disability" and making other perfecting changes that may  
14 be required, throughout the Revised Code of Washington. The code  
15 reviser shall consult with legislative committee staff and other  
16 interested or affected parties. The recommendation must be submitted  
17 to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the  
18 senate by December 1, 2009.

Passed by the House April 20, 2009.

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2009.

Approved by the Governor May 6, 2009.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 8, 2009.