

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 6095

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Making technical corrections to gender-based terms.

**Sponsors:** Senator Kohl-Welles; by request of Statute Law Committee.

**Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection**  
**House Committee on Judiciary**

**Background:** Since 1983 state law has required that all statutes be written in gender-neutral terms, unless a specification of gender is intended. In 2007 the Legislature passed ESB 5063, an act relating to removing gender references. The act changed gender-specific terms to gender-neutral terms in several chapters of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), including those chapters dealing with firefighters, police officers, bondspersons, and material suppliers. The Legislature directed the Code Reviser, in consultation with the Statute Law Committee, to develop and implement a plan to correct gender-specific references in the entire RCW. The Code Reviser must make annual legislative recommendations to make the RCW completely gender-neutral by June 30, 2015.

**Summary:** Gender-specific terms and references are made gender-neutral in several RCW Titles. For example, references to his are changed to his or her and clergyman is changed to member of the clergy. Titles relating to public service are included and made gender-neutral throughout. Other code sections are included, such as sections that contain public health and safety regulations, to modify specific references to man or men.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	44	0
House	66	32

**Effective:** June 7, 2012

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*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.*