Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

LEGISLATION: Requests a study regarding the use of gender neutral language

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to review and evaluate terminology
3	denoting gender that is currently contained in Louisiana law, to propose alternative
4	gender-neutral terminology to be used prospectively by the Legislature of Louisiana
5	when enacting or amending legislation, and to identify gender-identifying
6	terminology in current Louisiana law and recommend substitutions.
7	WHEREAS, traditionally, the language in Louisiana law has been gender based,
8	using masculine pronouns or other gender-specific terms; and
9	WHEREAS, Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana prohibits any law
10	from arbitrarily, capriciously, or unreasonably discriminating against a person because of
11	sex; and
12	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need for gender equality
13	evidenced by the enactment of Act No. 374 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature
14	of Louisiana, the Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act; and
15	WHEREAS, other states, including Washington and Georgia, have recognized the
16	need for gender-neutral laws and have begun a comprehensive revision of their statutes.
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18	urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to review and evaluate terminology
19	denoting gender that is currently contained in Louisiana law and propose alternative gender-
20	neutral terminology to be used prospectively by the Legislature of Louisiana when enacting
21	or amending legislation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute identify gender

- 2 identifying terminology in current Louisiana law and recommend substitutions, provided that
- 3 the substitutions do not alter substantive meaning.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute report its
- 5 findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana prior to the convening of the
- 6 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted

8 to the director of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Tim Burns

HCR No. 18

Requests the La. State Law Institute to study the use of gender-neutral terminology in La. law.