

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2546

By: Liotta

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to definitions and general provisions; prohibiting use of certain language; mandating use of certain language; clarifying effect of violations; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 40 of Title 25, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning November 1, 2006, all new and revised statutes, administrative rules, local laws, ordinances, charters, or regulations promulgated or any publication published by the state or any political subdivision that refers to persons with disabilities shall:

1. Avoid language that:
 - a. implies that a person as a whole is disabled (e.g., the mentally ill or the learning disabled),
 - b. equates persons with their condition (e.g., epileptics, autistics, or quadriplegics),
 - c. has negative overtones (e.g., afflicted with cerebral palsy, suffering from multiple sclerosis, confined to a wheelchair, or wheelchair bound), or
 - d. is regarded as derogatory or demeaning (e.g., handicapped or mentally deficient); and

2. Replace nonrespectful language by referring to persons with disabilities as persons first (e.g., persons with disabilities, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with mental illness, persons with autism, or persons with mental retardation).

B. Violation of this section shall not be grounds to invalidate any new or revised statutes, administrative rules, local laws, ordinances, charters, or regulations promulgated or any publication published by the state or any political subdivision.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

50-2-8617

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