

SUBJECT: Gender-neutral terminology in attorney general's publications

COMMITTEE: Judicial Affairs — favorable, with amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Thompson, Hartnett, Deshotel, Garcia, Hinojosa, Solis, Talton, Uresti

0 nays

1 absent — Capelo

WITNESSES: For — Hugh Nations, Men and Fathers Resource Center and Texas Fatherhood Initiative

Against — None

On — Elizabeth Buhmann, Office of the Attorney General

BACKGROUND: The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) produces several types of publications on topics such as child support and victims of crime.

DIGEST: HB 1560, as amended, would require the OAG to use gender-neutral terminology in any publication it distributes to the public, including publications about child- support enforcement.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2002.

NOTES: HB 1560 as filed would have provided for immediate effect if the bill received the necessary two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. The committee changed the proposed effective date to January 1, 2002, to allow the OAG to exhaust its current supply of publications before producing new publications with gender-neutral terminology.