

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 588

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the use of certain language in statutes or resolutions.

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

4 SECTION 1. Sections 392.002(a) and (b), Government Code,  
5 are amended to read as follows:

6 (a) The legislature and the Texas Legislative Council are  
7 directed to avoid using the following terms and phrases in any new  
8 statute or resolution and to change those terms and phrases used in  
9 any existing statute or resolution as sections including those  
10 terms and phrases are otherwise amended by law:

- 11 (1) disabled;
- 12 (2) developmentally disabled;
- 13 (3) mentally disabled;
- 14 (4) mentally ill;
- 15 (5) mentally retarded;
- 16 (6) handicapped;
- 17 (7) cripple; ~~and~~
- 18 (8) crippled;
- 19 (9) hearing impaired;
- 20 (10) hearing loss;
- 21 (11) audiologically impaired; and
- 22 (12) speech impaired.

23 (b) In enacting or revising statutes or resolutions, the  
24 legislature and the Texas Legislative Council are directed to

1 replace, as appropriate, terms and phrases listed by Subsection (a)  
2 with the following preferred phrases or appropriate variations of  
3 those phrases:

- 4 (1) "persons with disabilities";
- 5 (2) "persons with developmental disabilities";
- 6 (3) "persons with mental illness"; ~~and~~
- 7 (4) "persons with intellectual disabilities";
- 8 (5) "persons who are deaf"; and
- 9 (6) "persons who are hard of hearing."

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.