

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2012**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Harriette L. Chandler***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act requiring equality in state documents.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>11/15/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2022</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2012**

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By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2012) of Harriette L. Chandler, Kay Khan and Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation relative to gender equality requirement in state documents. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1805 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act requiring equality in state documents.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. As used in this section the following words shall have the following  
2 meanings:-

3 “Agency”, a commonwealth authority, including a quasi-public independent entity  
4 performing a public function that does not receive direct appropriations from the commonwealth,  
5 board, bureau, commission, department, division, executive office, institution, institution of  
6 higher education, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the state treasurer, the state auditor,  
7 the administrative office of the trial courts, trial court departments, the supreme judicial court,  
8 the appeals court, the governor's office, lieutenant governor's office, the governor's council, the  
9 Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the house of representatives and the senate.

10           No later than six months after the passage of this act, the Massachusetts Commission on  
11 LGBTQ Youth shall produce guidelines, hereinafter referred to as “the guidelines”, regarding  
12 gender appropriate language to use to reference gender on Agency forms and documents. Such  
13 guidance shall include in the elimination of the terms “mother” and “father” on all state  
14 documentation, to be replaced with “parent 1” and “parent 2”. Such guidance shall require that  
15 language is gender neutral where possible.

16           No later than one year after the passage of this act, each Agency shall, subject to  
17 appropriation, review documentation and forms for which they have authority, and update said  
18 documentation and forms to conform with the guidelines.

19           SECTION 2. Section 16 of chapter 46 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
20 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end, the following paragraph:-

21           “The state registrar shall ensure that any form or other materials approved by the registrar  
22 use gender appropriate language to reference gender and is gender neutral where possible. The  
23 registrar may utilize guidelines created by the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth or  
24 any other relevant guidelines in making such a determination.”