

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2083

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES YOUNG (Sponsor), SCHIEFFER,
SATER AND VILLA (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 12, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

5006L.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the use of respectful language in reference to persons with disabilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 1.095, to read as follows:

**1.095. All legislation, resolutions, regulations, memorials, documents,
2 correspondence, and signage enacted, promulgated, or otherwise published that refers to
3 persons with disabilities shall seek to:**

4 **(1) Avoid language that:**

5 **(a) Implies that a person as a whole is disabled, including but not limited to the
6 mentally retarded and the mentally ill;**

7 **(b) Equates persons with their conditions, including but not limited to epileptics,
8 autistics, and quadriplegics;**

9 **(c) Has negative overtones, including but not limited to afflicted with cerebral
10 palsy, suffering from multiple sclerosis, or wheelchair bound;**

11 **(d) Is regarded as derogatory or demeaning, including but not limited to
12 handicapped, retarded, mentally retarded, spastic, or crippled; and**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

13 **(2) Replace nonrespectful language by referring to persons with disabilities as**
14 **persons with disabilities, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with mental**
15 **illness, persons with autism, and persons with intellectual or cognitive disabilities.**
16
17 **No law, statute, legislation, resolution, regulation, memorial, or sign in existence prior to**
18 **the effective date of this section shall be deemed invalid for the sole reason that it does not**
19 **comply with the provisions of this section.**

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