

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 12

Bill No. 64-26

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Mr. Michael Ertel, Chair  
By Request of County Executive

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By the County Council, May 21, 2026

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A BILL  
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Gender-Specific Terms

FOR the purpose of requiring the County Code to have gender-neutral terms; directing the publisher of the County Code to correct certain gender-specific language to gender-neutral language after a certain approval; and generally relating to gender-specific terms in the County Code.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 1-2-206  
Article 1 – General Provisions  
Title 2 – Definitions and Rules of Construction  
Subtitle 2 – Rules of Construction  
Baltimore County Code, 2015

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.  
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE  
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

3  
4 ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

5 Title 2 – Definitions and Rules of Construction

6 Subtitle 2 – Rules of Construction

7  
8 § 1-2-206. Gender.

9 (A) Except where the construction would be unreasonable whenever one gender is used,  
10 the other gender is also intended.

11 (B) THE CODE SHALL USE GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY, SUCH AS:

12 (1) CHAIR OR CHAIRPERSON RATHER THAN CHAIRMAN;

13 (2) COUNCILMEMBER OR COUNCILPERSON RATHER THAN  
14 COUNCILMAN; AND

15 (3) FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICER RATHER THAN FIREMAN  
16 AND POLICEMAN.

17  
18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the publisher of the Baltimore  
19 County Code, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the County Attorney, shall  
20 correct any terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. The publisher shall adequately describe  
21 any correction that is made in an editor's note followed the section affected.

1            SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the changes reflected in this Act  
2 are merely technical updates to the County Code for consistency in terms and in no way preclude  
3 the use of the terms “Councilman”, “Councilwoman”, “Chairman”, “Chairwoman”, or any other  
4 gendered term in any other context.

5  
6            ~~SECTION 3.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed  
7 by the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its  
8 enactment.



# LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION \_\_\_\_\_

ENACTED \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## ROLL CALL - BILL

MOTION

AYE      NAY

    

SECOND

Councilman Young

    

Councilman Patoka

    

Councilman Mangione

    

Councilman Jones

    

Councilman Marks

    

Councilman Ertel

    

Councilman Crandell

## ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

AYE      NAY

    

Councilman Young

    

Councilman Patoka

    

Councilman Mangione

    

Councilman Jones

    

Councilman Marks

    

Councilman Ertel

    

Councilman Crandell

## ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

AYE      NAY

    

Councilman Young

    

Councilman Patoka

    

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Councilman Jones

    

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## ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

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Councilman Young

    

Councilman Patoka

    

Councilman Mangione

    

Councilman Jones

    

Councilman Marks

    

Councilman Ertel

    

Councilman Crandell