

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2529

To amend title 38, United States Code, to amend the definition of the term “spouse” to recognize new State definitions of such term for the purpose of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to amend the definition of the term “spouse” to recognize new State definitions of such term for the purpose of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Spouses Equal  
5       Treatment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SPOUSE FOR PURPOSES OF VET-**  
2 **ERAN BENEFITS TO REFLECT NEW STATE**  
3 **DEFINITIONS OF SPOUSE.**

4 Section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “of the oppo-  
7 site sex”; and

8 (2) by striking paragraph (31) and inserting  
9 the following new paragraph:

10 “(31) Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, an  
11 individual shall be considered a ‘spouse’ if the mar-  
12 riage of the individual is valid in the State in which  
13 the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a  
14 marriage entered into outside any State, if the mar-  
15 riage is valid in the place in which the marriage was  
16 entered into and the marriage could have been en-  
17 tered into in a State. In this paragraph, the term  
18 ‘State’ has the meaning given that term in para-  
19 graph (20), except that the term also includes the  
20 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

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