

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4637

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for certain benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans rated totally disabled at death to certain surviving spouses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for certain benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans rated totally disabled at death to certain surviving spouses.

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 “Veterans’ Surviving
5 Spouse Equity Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN BENE-**
2 **FITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE**
3 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SUR-**
4 **VIVORS OF CERTAIN VETERANS RATED TO-**
5 **TALLY DISABLED AT TIME OF DEATH.**

6 Subsection (c) of section 1318 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking (or);

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; or”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(3) the surviving spouse—

14 “(A) was married to the veteran for a pe-
15 riod of one year or more immediately preceding
16 the veteran’s death; or

17 “(B) lived with the veteran in the same
18 household for at least one year immediately pre-
19 ceding the veteran’s death and held themselves
20 to the public as the spouse of the veteran dur-
21 ing such period, regardless of whether the vet-
22 eran or the surviving spouse entered into an-
23 other legal or religious marriage during such
24 period.”.

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