

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 578

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Mr. ISSA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers.

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 “Military Residency
5 Choice Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESIDENCE OF SPOUSES OF SERVICEMEMBERS**
7 **FOR TAX PURPOSES.**

8 (a) RESIDENCE FOR TAX PURPOSES.—Section
9 511(a)(2) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50
10 U.S.C. 4001(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the

1 following new sentence: “The spouse of a servicemember
2 may elect to use the same residence for purposes of tax-
3 ation as the servicemember regardless of the date on which
4 the marriage of the spouse and the servicemember oc-
5 curred.”.

6 (b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by sub-
7 section (a) shall apply with respect to any return of State
8 or local income tax filed for any taxable year beginning
9 with the taxable year that includes the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 3. RESIDENCE OF SPOUSES OF SERVICEMEMBERS**
12 **FOR VOTING.**

13 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 705(b) of such Act is
14 amended—

15 (1) by striking “State or local office” and all
16 that follows through the period at the end of para-
17 graph (3) and inserting “State or local office—”;
18 and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraphs:

21 “(1) a person who is absent from a State be-
22 cause the person is accompanying the person’s
23 spouse who is absent from that same State in com-
24 pliance with military or naval orders shall not, solely
25 by reason of that absence—

1 “(A) be deemed to have lost a residence or
2 domicile in that State, without regard to wheth-
3 er or not the person intends to return to that
4 State;

5 “(B) be deemed to have acquired a resi-
6 dence or domicile in any other State; or

7 “(C) be deemed to have become a resident
8 in or a resident of any other State; and

9 “(2) the spouse of a servicemember may elect
10 to use the same residence as the servicemember re-
11 gardless of the date on which the marriage of the
12 spouse and the servicemember occurred.”.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
15 after the enactment of this Act.

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