

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 971

To amend title 38, United States Code, to treat small businesses, owned by surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty, as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Ms. MENG 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 treat small businesses, owned by surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty, as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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 “Surviving Spouse Con-  
5 tracting Preference Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES OWNED BY SURVIVING**  
2 **SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES FOR PURPOSES OF DEPARTMENT OF**  
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACTING GOALS**  
5 **AND PREFERENCES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127 of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (h) through (k)  
9 as subsections (i) through (l), respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-  
11 lowing new subsection (h):

12 “(h) TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES AFTER DEATH OF  
13 MEMBER.—(1) If a member of the Armed Forces is killed  
14 in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air serv-  
15 ice, the surviving spouse of such member who acquires  
16 ownership rights in a small business concern shall, for the  
17 period described in paragraph (2), be treated as the sur-  
18 viving spouse of a service-disabled veteran described in  
19 section 3(q)(2)(C)(i) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
20 632(q)(2)(C)(i)).

21 “(2) The period referred to in paragraph (1) is the  
22 period beginning on the date on which the member of the  
23 Armed Forces dies and ending on the earliest of the fol-  
24 lowing dates:

25 “(A) The date on which the surviving spouse of  
26 the member remarries.

1           “(B) The date on which the surviving spouse  
2           relinquishes such ownership interest in the small  
3           business concern.”.

4           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of section  
5 8127 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall take  
6 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall  
7 apply with respect to the deaths of members of the Armed  
8 Forces occurring on or after such date.

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