

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1314

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the definition of spouse and surviving spouse to include all individuals lawfully married, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2023

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the definition of spouse and surviving spouse to include all individuals lawfully married, 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. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF SPOUSE**  
4 **AND SURVIVING SPOUSE FOR DEPARTMENT**  
5 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE ALL IN-**  
6 **DIVIDUALS LAWFULLY MARRIED.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of title 38, United  
8 States Code, is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “of the oppo-  
2           site sex who was the spouse of a veteran” and in-  
3           serting “who was lawfully married to a veteran, in-  
4           cluding a marriage between two persons of the same  
5           sex,”; and

6           (2) in paragraph (31), by striking “of the oppo-  
7           site sex”.

8           (b) MODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS.—The Sec-  
9           retary of Veterans Affairs shall update all rules and regu-  
10          lations of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure  
11          compliance with—

12           (1) the amendments made by subsection (a);  
13          and

14           (2) section 7 of title 1, United States Code.

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