

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1030

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, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) 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, 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 “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 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 38, United  
5 States Code is amended—

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

8 (2) in paragraph (31), by striking “of the oppo-  
9 site sex who is a wife or husband” and inserting “in  
10 a marriage recognized under section 103 of this  
11 title”.

12 (b) DETERMINATION.—Subsection (c) of section 103  
13 of such title is amended to read as follows:

14 “(c)(1) For the purposes of all laws administered by  
15 the Secretary, the Secretary shall recognize a marriage  
16 based on the law of the State where the marriage oc-  
17 curred. In the case of a marriage that occurred outside  
18 a State, the Secretary shall recognize the marriage if the  
19 marriage was lawful in the place where it occurred and  
20 could have been entered into under the laws of any State.  
21 Except in the case of a purported marriage deemed valid  
22 under subsection (a), the Secretary may not recognize  
23 more than one marriage for any person at the same time.

24 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘State’ has the  
25 meaning given that the term in section 101(20) of this

1 title, except that such term also includes the Common-  
2 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

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