

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 270

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits in recognition of new State definitions of spouse, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits in recognition of new State definitions of spouse, 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 “Charlie Morgan Mili-
5 tary Spouses Equal Treatment Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SPOUSE FOR PURPOSES OF VET-**
2 **ERANS BENEFITS TO REFLECT NEW STATE**
3 **DEFINITIONS OF SPOUSE.**

4 (a) SPOUSE DEFINED.—Section 101 of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended—

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

8 (2) by striking paragraph (31) and inserting
9 the following new paragraph:

10 “(31)(A) An individual shall be considered a ‘spouse’
11 if the marriage of the individual is considered valid under
12 the laws of any State.

13 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘State’ has the
14 meaning given that term in paragraph (20), except that
15 the term also includes the Commonwealth of the Northern
16 Mariana Islands.”.

17 (b) MARRIAGE DETERMINATION.—Section 103(c) of
18 such title is amended by striking “according to” and all
19 that follows through the period at the end and inserting
20 “in accordance with section 101(31) of this title.”.

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