

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “widow” and “widower”, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. LEAHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “widow” and “widower”, 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 “Copyright and Mar-  
5 riage Equality Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF WIDOW AND WIDOWER IN TITLE 17,**  
7 **UNITED STATES CODE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of title 17, United  
9 States Code, is amended by striking the definition of  
10 “‘widow’ or ‘widower’” and inserting the following:

1           “An individual is the ‘widow’ or ‘widower’ of an  
2           author if the courts of the State in which the indi-  
3           vidual and the author were married (or, if the indi-  
4           vidual and the author were not married in any State  
5           but were validly married in another jurisdiction, the  
6           courts of any State) would find that the individual  
7           and the author were validly married at the time of  
8           the author’s death, whether or not the spouse has  
9           later remarried.”.

10          (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
11          subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the death of any  
12          author that occurs on or after the date of the enactment  
13          of this Act.