

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the definition of spouse for purposes of veteran benefits to recognize new State definitions of spouse.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1982

To improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mrs. SHAHEEN

Viz:

1 At the end, add the following:

2 **SEC. 918. DEFINITION OF SPOUSE FOR PURPOSES OF VET-**

3 **ERAN BENEFITS TO REFLECT NEW STATE**

4 **DEFINITIONS OF SPOUSE.**

5 (a) SPOUSE DEFINED.—Section 101 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 (31):

10 “(31)(A) An individual shall be considered a ‘spouse’

11 if—

1 “(i) the marriage of the individual is valid in
2 the State in which the marriage was entered into; or

3 “(ii) in the case of a marriage entered into out-
4 side any State—

5 “(I) if the marriage of the individual is
6 valid in the place in which the marriage was en-
7 tered into; and

8 “(II)(aa) the marriage could have been en-
9 tered into in a State; or

10 “(bb) the marriage was valid in the place
11 in which all parties to the marriage resided at
12 the time the marriage was entered into.

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) is
18 amended by striking “according to” and all that follows
19 through the period at the end and inserting “in accordance
20 with section 101(31) of this title.”.