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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 23

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Copyright and Marriage Equality Act''.

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

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking the definition of ''`widow' or `widower' '' and inserting the following:

> ''An individual is the `widow' or `widower' of an author if the courts of the State in which the individual and the author were married (or, if the individual and the author were not married in any State but were validly married in another jurisdiction, the courts of any State) would find that the individual and the author were validly married at the time of the author's death, whether or not the spouse has later remarried.''.

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

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