

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 677
OFFERED BY MS. TITUS OF NEVADA**

Add at the appropriate place the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____ . 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

1 marriage was lawful in the place where it occurred and
2 could have been entered into under the laws of any State.
3 Except in the case of a purported marriage deemed valid
4 under subsection (a), the Secretary may not recognize
5 more than one marriage for any person at the same time.

6 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘State’ has the
7 meaning given that the term in section 101(20) of this
8 title, except that such term also includes the Common-
9 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

