

**HR 249**

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide an exception to the nine-month duration of marriage requirement for widows and widowers in cases in which the marriage was postponed by legal impediments to the marriage caused by State restrictions on divorce from a prior spouse institutionalized due to mental incompetence or similar incapacity.

**Congress:** 108 (2003–2005, Ended)  
**Chamber:** House  
**Policy Area:** Social Welfare  
**Introduced:** Jan 8, 2003  
**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.  
**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security. (Jan 21, 2003)  
**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/249>

**Sponsor**

**Name:** Rep. Allen, Thomas H. [D-ME-1]  
**Party:** Democratic • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors**

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

**Committee Activity**

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 21, 2003

**Subjects & Policy Tags**

**Policy Area:**

Social Welfare

**Related Bills**

*No related bills are listed.*

**Summary** (as of Jan 8, 2003)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act with respect to the nine-month minimum duration of a marriage required to qualify a surviving spouse for OASDI benefits. Allows a less than nine-month duration of a marriage in the case of widows or widowers whose marriage was postponed by legal impediments to the marriage caused by State restrictions on divorce from a prior spouse institutionalized due to mental incompetence or similar incapacity.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jan 21, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.
- **Jan 8, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 8, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 8, 2003:** Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.