

S 23

Copyright and Marriage Equality Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Jan 6, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

CR S12-13; text of measure as introduced: CR S13) (Jan 6, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/23>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 6, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 6, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 6, 2015
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 6, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 6, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 7, 2015
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 9, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 12, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 6, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 238	Identical bill	Feb 2, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Copyright and Marriage Equality Act

Amends federal copyright law to revise the definition of "widow" or "widower" for purposes of provisions concerning the transfer of a copyright to an author's spouse or other next of kin following the author's death. Declares that 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. (Currently, only the author's surviving spouse under the law of the author's domicile at the time of death is considered a widow.)

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 6, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 6, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S12-13; text of measure as introduced: CR S13)