

1 SB427  
2 172913-1  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 19-APR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing case law, a common-law  
9 marriage may be recognized as valid in Alabama if  
10 certain conditions are met.

11 This bill would provide that a common-law  
12 marriage may not be entered into in this state  
13 after January 1, 2017. This bill would also provide  
14 that an otherwise valid common-law marriage entered  
15 into before January 1, 2017, would continue to be  
16 valid.

17  
18 A BILL  
19 TO BE ENTITLED  
20 AN ACT

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22 To abolish common-law marriages entered into on or  
23 after January 1, 2017; and to recognize certain common-law  
24 marriages entered into before January 1, 2017.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. (a) No common-law marriage may be entered  
27 into in this state on or after January 1, 2017.

1                   (b) An otherwise valid common-law marriage entered  
2 into before January 1, 2017, shall continue to be valid in  
3 this state.

4                   Section 2. This act shall become effective January  
5 1, 2017.