

**As Reported by the House Civil Justice Committee**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 407**

**Representatives Dever, Seitz**

**Cosponsor: Representative Manning**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 2103.02, 2103.09, and 2106.24 of 1  
the Revised Code to abolish the estate by dower. 2

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2103.02, 2103.09, and 2106.24 of 3  
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 4

**Sec. 2103.02.** (A) This section applies only to a dower 5  
interest that vested before the effective date of this 6  
amendment. 7

(B) A spouse who has not relinquished or been barred from 8  
it shall be endowed of an estate for life in one third of the 9  
real property of which the consort was seized as an estate of 10  
inheritance at any time during the marriage. Such dower interest 11  
shall terminate upon the death of the consort except: 12

~~(A)~~ (1) To the extent that any such real property was 13  
conveyed by the deceased consort during the marriage, the 14  
surviving spouse not having relinquished or been barred from 15  
dower therein; 16

~~(B)~~ (2) To the extent that any such real property during 17

the marriage was encumbered by the deceased consort by mortgage, 18  
judgment, lien except tax lien, or otherwise, or aliened by 19  
involuntary sale, the surviving spouse not having relinquished 20  
or been barred from dower therein. If such real property was 21  
encumbered or aliened prior to decease, the dower interest of 22  
the surviving spouse therein shall be computed on the basis of 23  
the amount of the encumbrance at the time of the death of such 24  
consort or at the time of such alienation, but not upon an 25  
amount exceeding the sale price of such property. 26

In lieu of such dower interest which terminates pursuant 27  
to this section, a surviving spouse shall be entitled to the 28  
distributive share provided by section 2105.06 of the Revised 29  
Code. 30

Dower interest shall terminate upon the granting of an 31  
absolute divorce in favor of or against such spouse by a court 32  
of competent jurisdiction within or without this state. 33

Wherever dower is referred to in Chapters 2101. to 2131., ~~—~~ 34  
~~inclusive,~~ of the Revised Code, it means the dower to which a 35  
spouse is entitled by this section. 36

**Sec. 2103.09.** (A) The estate by the curtesy is abolished; 37  
but sections 2103.01 to 2103.09, ~~inclusive,~~ of the Revised Code 38  
shall not affect vested rights nor any section of the Revised 39  
Code. 40

(B) The estate of dower is abolished. However, the 41  
abolition of dower shall not affect the dower interest of a 42  
surviving spouse whose interest vested before the effective date 43  
of this amendment. 44

**Sec. 2106.24.** In addition to the rights provided in this 45  
chapter, a surviving spouse of a decedent who died testate or 46

intestate is entitled to any other rights prescribed in other 47  
chapters of the Revised Code, including, but not limited to, any 48  
dower rights that vested before the effective date of this 49  
amendment, under Chapters 2103. and 5305. of the Revised Code. 50

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2103.02, 2103.09, and 51  
2106.24 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 52