

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 26-0484.01 Veronica Parish x2606

**SENATE BILL 26-013**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hinrichsen,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**Senate Committees**

Judiciary

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING COHABITATION AS A MEANS TO COMMIT THE OFFENSE OF**  
102      **BIGAMY.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill excludes cohabitation as a possible element of bigamy.

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1      *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2      **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-6-201, **amend** (1)

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 introductory portion and (1.5) introductory portion as follows:

2 **18-6-201. Bigamy.**

3 (1) ~~Any~~ A married person who, while still married, marries OR  
4 enters into a civil union ~~or cohabits~~ in this state with another person  
5 commits bigamy, unless as an affirmative defense it appears that at the  
6 time of the ~~cohabitation~~, subsequent marriage or subsequent civil union:

7 (1.5) ~~Any~~ A person who is a partner in a civil union, while still  
8 legally in a civil union, who marries OR enters into another civil union ~~or~~  
9 ~~cohabits~~ in the state with another person other than a current partner in a  
10 civil union commits bigamy, unless as an affirmative defense it appears  
11 that at the time of the ~~cohabitation~~ or subsequent marriage or subsequent  
12 civil union:

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-6-203 as  
14 follows:

15 **18-6-203. Definitions.**

16 ~~As used in section 18-6-201, "cohabitation" means to live together~~  
17 ~~under the representation of being married.~~

18 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
21 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.