

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0484.01 Veronica Parish x2606

SENATE BILL 26-013

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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.

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.