

# An Act

SENATE BILL 26-013

BY SENATOR(S) Hinrichsen and Marchman, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Michaelson Jenet, Snyder, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Zokaie, Bacon, Lieder, Lindsay, Mabrey, Nguyen, Rutinel, Woodrow.

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

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-6-201, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1.5) introductory portion as follows:

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

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

(1.5) ~~Any~~ **A** person who is a partner in a civil union, while still legally in a civil union, who marries OR enters into another civil union ~~or~~

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

~~cohabits~~ in the state with another person other than a current partner in a civil union commits bigamy, unless as an affirmative defense it appears that at the time of the ~~cohabitation~~ or subsequent marriage or subsequent civil union:

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

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

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

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

and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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James Rashad Coleman, Sr.  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Esther van Mourik  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Vanessa Reilly  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and Time)

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Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO