

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0181.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**SENATE BILL 26-048**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hinrichsen and Marchman,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Joseph,**

---

**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING REMOVING THE EXCEPTION THAT AUTHORIZES A MINOR**  
102 **WHO IS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER TO MARRY WITH**  
103 **JUDICIAL APPROVAL, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
104 **REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**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>.)*

Current law requires an individual to be at least 18 years old in order to obtain a marriage license; except that a minor who is 16 or 17 years old may obtain a marriage license with judicial approval. The bill

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.

repeals this exception, therefore requiring that an individual be at least 18 years old to obtain a marriage license.

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 14-2-106, **amend**  
3 (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(a)(I), and (1)(b) as follows:

4 **14-2-106. License to marry.**

5 (1) (a) When a marriage license application has been completed  
6 and signed by both parties to a prospective marriage and at least one party  
7 has appeared, or both parties appeared if permitted pursuant to section  
8 14-2-106.5, before the county clerk and recorder, and A PARTY has paid  
9 the marriage license fee of seven dollars, a fee of twenty dollars to be  
10 transmitted by the county clerk and recorder to the state treasurer and  
11 credited by the treasurer to the Colorado domestic abuse program fund  
12 created in section 39-22-802 (1), and an additional amount established  
13 pursuant to section 25-2-121 ~~such amount~~ to be credited to the vital  
14 statistics records cash fund, ~~pursuant to section 25-2-121~~, the county clerk  
15 shall issue a license to marry and a marriage certificate form upon being  
16 furnished:

17 (I) Satisfactory proof that each party to the marriage will have  
18 attained the age of eighteen years at the time the marriage license  
19 becomes effective; ~~or, if over the age of sixteen years but has not attained~~  
20 ~~the age of eighteen years, has judicial approval, as provided in section~~  
21 ~~14-2-108~~; and

22 (b) Violation of subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section makes the  
23 marriage ~~voidable~~ VOID.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-111, **repeal**  
25 (2)(d) as follows:

1           **19-1-111. Appointment of guardian ad litem.**

2           (2) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem in the following  
3 cases:

4           (d) ~~For an underage party seeking a marriage license, as provided~~  
5 ~~in section 14-2-108 (2).~~

6           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 14-2-108.

7           **SECTION 4. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill. (1)**

8 Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this act,  
9 the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation  
10 act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the judicial department for use by  
11 the office of the child's representative for court-appointed counsel is  
12 decreased by \$7,125.

13           (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of  
14 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27  
15 state fiscal year if:

16           (a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the  
17 annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the  
18 judicial department for use by the office of the child's representative for  
19 court-appointed counsel is less than the amount of the adjustment  
20 required in subsection (1) of this section; or

21           (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state  
22 fiscal year does not include a general fund appropriation to the judicial  
23 department for use by the office of the child's representative for  
24 court-appointed counsel.

25           **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
26 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
27 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the

1 general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13,  
2 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1  
3 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section,  
4 or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part  
5 will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election  
6 to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the  
7 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

8 (2) This act applies to marriage licenses issued on or after the  
9 applicable effective date of this act.