

**HB 16-1085 – Reclaim the Name*****Sponsors: Representative Thurlow & Senator Tate*****What does the bill do?**

Simplifies the process by which a man or woman may “reclaim” his/her maiden name after a divorce, if they choose not to initially change it during the divorce process.

**The Goal of this Legislation:**

Make the process easier to return to ones maiden name after a divorce is finalized and he or she decided to keep their married last name and then later decided to return to their maiden name.

**Background:**

During the divorce process a person who would like to “reclaim” their maiden name has the option of signing a Name Change Decree, which returns them back to their original name, which doesn’t require a background check or publication of the name, simply a signature. Although, some might not want to return to their maiden names initially for many reasons:

- It’s an emotional time...and the person may have spent many years with their married name. It’s a lot to change during what is already an emotional, expensive and difficult transition.
- If children are involved an individual may want to wait to change their name for the sake of their children
- The sheer hassle of transitioning to a new name with the DMV, Social Security, Passports, Banks etc. may be overwhelming during a difficult transition of this nature

**Currently**, if a person who decided to keep their married name after a divorce, then desires to reclaim their maiden name after the divorce has been finalized must go through the state standard name changing procedure.

- The name-change petitioner must file substantial amounts of paperwork and most likely requires a lawyer
- The petitioner must obtain and pay for fingerprinting (approx. \$20-\$50) in order for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to perform background checks.
- The petitioner must pay to publish their name in their local newspaper several times and the reasons why they desire to change their name
- The petitioner must then provide all of this to the court and wait for the approval and a court date

**The Solution:**

This bill will **simplify** the process by only requiring the individual wishing to reclaim their maiden name after the dissolution or legal separation is finalized to file a verified motion and affidavit. They must file the motion under the same case number as their divorce and in the same district court as the dissolution was originally filed.

- This bill reduces the number of background checks performed. **Saving the state approximately \$5,000.**

**Please Vote YES on HB16-1085 Reclaim the Name Bill**