

**SB16-150: Marriages by Individuals in Civil Unions****Rep. Esgar and Sen. Steadman****What this bill addresses:**

- **People have overlapping Marriages and Civil Unions**
  - As additional legal protections and relationship recognition have become available, many couples have acquired layers of legal documents
- **SB 150 is a clean up bill that clarifies legal issues that arise when couples with a Civil Union marry each other**
- **Specifies the Civil Union is merged into the Marriage by operation of law**
- **Clarifies that separating couples need file only one dissolution petition and the method of calculating the duration of such relationships**
  - Under current law, Civil Unions and Marriages are separate licenses, and have separate dissolutions
  - Calculation of maintenance in dissolutions could produce conflicting results without clarifying how to calculate the duration of the relationship
- **Requires Marriage license applications to inquire about prior Civil Unions, in addition to prior Marriages**
- **Bans Marriages where one party is in a Civil Union**
  - includes such instances within crime of bigamy, which is also expanded to include multiple Civil Unions
  - Collecting this information provides important demographic data and helps enforce the restrictions against multiple Marriages or Civil Unions
- **Amends the Colorado Civil Union Act to repeal the provision recognizing out-of-state same-sex Marriages as Civil Unions**
  - This provision is unconstitutional
- **Amends the Colorado Civil Union Act to clarify that a Civil Union license shall not be evidence of intent to have a common law Marriage, although one may be later determined**
  - This reinforces that the two are separate statuses and people must affirmatively choose the relationship that is right for them

**Supporters include:** the ACLU, One Colorado, Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, and 9to5 Colorado