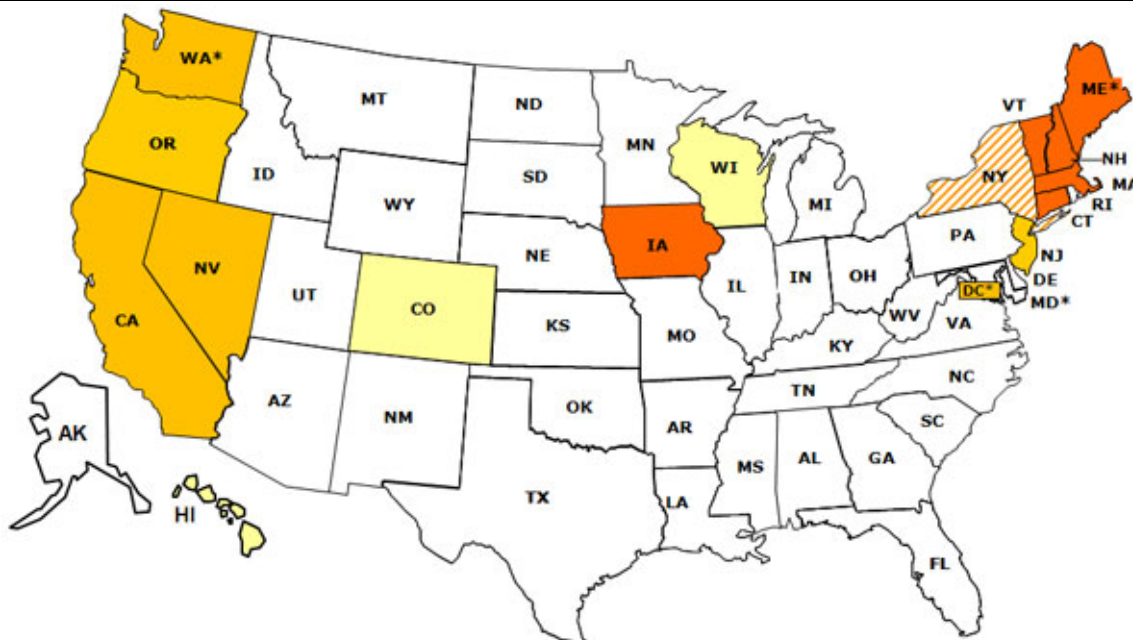





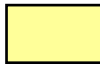


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Marriage Equality & Other Relationship Recognition Laws



-  State issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples (6 states).
Connecticut (2008), Iowa (2009), Maine * (effective Sept. 2009), Massachusetts (2004), New Hampshire (effective 1/1/2010) and Vermont (effective 9/1/2009).
-  State recognizes marriages by same-sex couples legally entered into in another jurisdiction (1 state and Washington, DC)
New York (2008) and District of Columbia* (2009).
-  Statewide law providing the equivalent of state-level spousal rights to same-sex couples within the state (5 states and Washington, DC)
California (domestic partnerships, 1999, expanded in 2005), District of Columbia* (domestic partnerships, 2002), Nevada (domestic partnerships, effective 10/1/2009), New Jersey (civil unions, 2007), Oregon (domestic partnerships, 2008) and Washington * (domestic partnerships, 2007/2009).
-  Statewide law providing some statewide spousal rights to same-sex couples within the state (3 states)
Colorado (designated beneficiaries, 2009), Hawaii (reciprocal beneficiaries, 1997) and Wisconsin (domestic partnerships, July 2009).

* District of Columbia: Washington, DC, allows same-sex couples in the District to enter into domestic partnerships and recognizes marriages by same-sex couples entered into in other jurisdictions.

* Maine: Gov. John Baldacci signed marriage equality legislation May 6, 2009. The new law is scheduled to become effective in mid-September 2009; however, it may face a repeal effort that would place a ballot measure before voters, possibly in November 2009.

* Washington: Gov. Chris Gregoire signed the Domestic Partnership Expansion bill May 18, 2009. Most provisions are scheduled to become effective July 26, 2009 unless opponents of the measure gather enough signatures to place a ballot measure before voters.

* Maryland does not have a registry but does provide certain benefits to statutorily defined domestic partners.