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## Delaware Bill Would Allow Same-Sex Unions

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By Julia Heller - [email](#)

DOVER, Del. - The road has been paved for same-sex couples in Delaware.

On Tuesday, Senate Bill 30 was introduced that will allow the couples to enter into a civil union. "This is a good day for us in the LGBT community, but it's also a good day for Delaware," said Douglas Marshall-Steele, who is in favor of the bill.

Twenty-seven co-sponsors are behind the bill. "It's about making life fair for people that are in the same committed loving relationship as other people," said Rep. Melanie George.

Under the measure, same-sex couples would be granted the same legal protections and rights as married couples. "We're not asking for anything special, we're asking for our families to be treated equally," said Steve Elkins, the Executive Director of CAMP Rehoboth.

Equality Delaware released a poll last week showing 62% of Delaware voters support civil unions. That's twice the number who oppose it. Governor Jack Markell showed his support, saying this bill will respect the commitment couples make to each other. "The time is here, the time is now and this legislation is the best possible chance of moving us forward," said Markell.

Six states have already passed civil union legislation and lawmakers say they're hopeful Delaware will become the seventh state later this year. The bill is in the very beginning stages. It will go up for a vote in the Senate. If that passes, it must also pass in the House before it can reach the Governor's desk.

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