

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

904S0353

SENATE BILL NO. 138

Introduced by: Senators Gray, Frerichs, Garnos, Johnston, Krebs, Lederman, Nelson (Tom), Nygaard, and Tieszen and Representatives Perry, Hoffman, Kopp, Magstadt, Turbiville, and Willadsen

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to enact the agreement among the states to elect the
2 president by national popular vote.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. The agreement among the states to elect the President by national popular vote
5 is entered with all states legally joining in the form substantially as follows:

6 ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

7 Any state of the United States and the District of Columbia may become a member of this
8 agreement by enacting this agreement.

9 ARTICLE II - RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE IN MEMBER STATES TO VOTE FOR

10 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

11 Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular election for President and Vice
12 President of the United States.

13 ARTICLE III - MANNER OF APPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

14 IN MEMBER STATES



1 Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, the chief
2 election official of each member state shall determine the number of votes for each presidential
3 slate in each state of the United States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been
4 cast in a statewide popular election and shall add such votes together to produce a national
5 popular vote total for each presidential slate.

6 The chief election official of each member state shall designate the presidential slate with
7 the largest national popular vote total as the national popular vote winner.

8 The presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment
9 in that official's own state of the elector slate nominated in that state in association with the
10 national popular vote winner.

11 A least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential
12 electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number of popular votes cast
13 in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an official statement of such
14 determination within twenty-four hours to the chief election official of each other member state.

15 The chief election official of each member state shall treat as conclusive an official
16 statement containing the number of popular votes in a state for each presidential slate made by
17 the day established by federal law for making a state's final determination conclusive as to the
18 counting of electoral votes by Congress.

19 In the event of a tie for the national popular vote winner, the presidential elector certifying
20 official of each member state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate nominated in
21 association with the presidential slate receiving the largest number of popular votes within that
22 official's own state.

23 If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state in
24 association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's number

1 of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated
2 as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors
3 for that state and that state's presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment
4 of such nominees. The chief election official of each member state shall immediately release to
5 the public all vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

6 This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each member state in
7 any year in which this agreement is, on July twentieth, in effect in states cumulatively
8 possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

9 ARTICLE IV - OTHER PROVISIONS

10 This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the
11 electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments
12 by such states have taken effect in each state.

13 Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring
14 six months or less before the end of a President's term does not become effective until a
15 President or Vice President has been qualified to serve the next term.

16 The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief executive of all
17 other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that official's state,
18 when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and when this agreement takes effect
19 generally.

20 This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

21 If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions are not affected.

22 ARTICLE V - DEFINITIONS

23 For purposes of this agreement:

24 (1) "Chief executive" means the Governor of a state of the United States or the mayor

- 1 of the District of Columbia;
- 2 (2) "Elector state" means a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a state for
3 the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential slate;
- 4 (3) "Chief election official" means the state official or body that is authorized to certify
5 the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;
- 6 (4) "Presidential elector" means an elector for President and Vice President of the United
7 States;
- 8 (5) "Presidential elector certifying official" means the state official or body that is
9 authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential electors;
- 10 (6) "Presidential slate" means a slate of two persons, the first of whom has been
11 nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and the second of whom
12 has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President of the United States, or any
13 legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on the
14 ballot presented to the voter in a particular state;
- 15 (7) "State" means a state of the United States and the District of Columbia; and
- 16 (8) "Statewide popular election" means a general election in which votes are cast for
17 presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.