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SENATE BILL 54

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Carlos R. Cisneros

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; ENACTING THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES
TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE; AMENDING THE
ELECTION CODE TO CONFORM WITH THE AGREEMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPACT ENACTED AND ENTERED
INTO.--The "Agreement Among the States to Elect the President
by National Popular Vote" is enacted into law and entered into
on behalf of New Mexico with any and all other states legally
joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

"AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

ARTICLE I

Membership

Any state of the United States and the District of

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1 Columbia may become a member of this agreement by enacting this
2 agreement.

3 ARTICLE II

4 Right of the People in Member States to Vote for President and
5 Vice President

6 Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular
7 election for president and vice president of the United States.

8 ARTICLE III

9 Manner of Appointing Presidential Electors in Member States

10 A. Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and
11 voting by the presidential electors, the chief election
12 official of each member state shall determine the number of
13 votes for each presidential slate in each state of the United
14 States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been
15 cast in a statewide popular election and shall add such votes
16 together to produce a "national popular vote total" for each
17 presidential slate.

18 B. The chief election official of each member state
19 shall designate the presidential slate with the largest
20 national popular vote total as the "national popular vote
21 winner".

22 C. The presidential elector certifying official of
23 each member state shall certify the appointment in that
24 official's own state of the elector slate nominated in that
25 state in association with the national popular vote winner.

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1 D. At least six days before the day fixed by law
2 for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, each
3 member state shall make a final determination of the number of
4 popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and
5 shall communicate an official statement of such determination
6 within twenty-four hours to the chief election official of each
7 other member state.

8 E. The chief election official of each member state
9 shall treat as conclusive an official statement containing the
10 number of popular votes in a state for each presidential slate
11 made by the day established by federal law for making a state's
12 final determination conclusive as to the counting of electoral
13 votes by congress.

14 F. In event of a tie for the national popular vote
15 winner, the presidential elector certifying official of each
16 member state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate
17 nominated in association with the presidential slate receiving
18 the largest number of popular votes within that official's own
19 state. If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors
20 nominated in a member state in association with the national
21 popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's
22 number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the
23 presidential slate that has been designated as the national
24 popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the
25 presidential electors for that state and that state's

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1 presidential elector certifying official shall certify the
2 appointment of such nominees. The chief election official of
3 each member state shall immediately release to the public all
4 vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or
5 obtained.

6 G. This article shall govern the appointment of
7 presidential electors in each member state in any year in which
8 this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively
9 possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

10 ARTICLE IV

11 Other Provisions

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

16 B. Any member state may withdraw from this
17 agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring six months or
18 less before the end of a president's term shall not become
19 effective until a president or vice president shall have been
20 qualified to serve the next term.

21 C. The chief executive of each member state shall
22 promptly notify the chief executive of all other states of when
23 this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that
24 official's state, when the state has withdrawn from this
25 agreement and when this agreement takes effect generally.

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1 whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter
2 in a particular state;

3 G. "state" means a state of the United States and
4 the District of Columbia; and

5 H. "statewide popular election" means a general
6 election in which votes are cast for presidential slates by
7 individual voters and counted on a statewide basis."

8 SECTION 2. Section 1-15-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969,
9 Chapter 240, Section 354) is amended to read:

10 "1-15-4. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS--ELECTION.--

11 A. The names of the presidential elector nominees
12 shall not be placed upon the general election ballot; instead,
13 the secretary of state shall certify to the county clerks the
14 names of persons nominated by each qualified political party
15 for the offices of president and vice president of the United
16 States.

17 B. The names of [~~such~~] the nominees for president
18 and vice president for each qualified political party shall be
19 printed together in pairs upon the general election ballot. A
20 vote for any [~~such~~] pair of nominees shall be a vote for the
21 presidential electors of the political party by which [~~such~~]
22 the nominees were named.

23 C. [~~The~~] Except as provided in Subsection D of this
24 section, presidential elector nominees of the party whose
25 nominees for president and vice president receive the highest

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1 number of votes at the general election shall be the elected
2 presidential electors for this state, and each shall be granted
3 a certificate of election by the state canvassing board.

4 D. If the Agreement Among the States to Elect the
5 President by National Popular Vote takes effect in accordance
6 with Article 4 of that compact, the state canvassing board
7 shall grant a certificate of election to the presidential
8 elector nominees of the party whose nominees for president and
9 vice president receive the largest national popular vote total
10 in the general election."