

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 954

Short Title: Popular Election.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Clodfelter; Dorsett and Kinnaird.

Referred to: Select Committee on Government and Election Reform.

March 20, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NORTH CAROLINA AS A MEMBER OF THE
3 AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY
4 NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended
7 by adding new sections to read:

8 **"§ 163-209.1. Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National**
9 **Popular Vote; compact enacted and entered into.**

10 The "Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote"
11 is enacted into law and entered into on behalf of North Carolina with any and all other
12 states legally joining therein in a form substantially as follows:

13
14 **Article I—Membership**

15 Any State of the United States and the District of Columbia may become a member
16 of this agreement by enacting this agreement.

17
18 **Article II—Right of the People in Member States to Vote for President and Vice**
19 **President**

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

22
23 **Article III—Manner of Appointing Presidential Electors in Member States**

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

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

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

6 At least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the
7 presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number
8 of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an
9 official statement of such determination within 24 hours to the chief election official of
10 each other member state.

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

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

19 If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state
20 in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that
21 state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that
22 has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to
23 nominate the presidential electors for that state, and that state's presidential elector
24 certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees. The chief election
25 official of each member state shall immediately release to the public all vote counts or
26 statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

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

30 **Article IV—Other Provisions**

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

34 Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal
35 occurring six months or less before the end of a President's term shall not become
36 effective until a President or Vice President shall have been qualified to serve the next
37 term.

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

42 This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.
43

1 If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not
2 be affected.

3
4 **Article V—Definitions**

5 For purposes of this agreement,

6 'chief executive' shall mean the Governor of a State of the United States or
7 the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

8 'elector slate' shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a
9 state for the position of presidential elector in association with a
10 presidential slate;

11 'chief election official' shall mean the state official or body that is authorized
12 to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;

13 'presidential elector' shall mean an elector for President and Vice President of
14 the United States;

15 'presidential elector certifying official' shall mean the state official or body
16 that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential
17 electors;

18 'presidential slate' shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of whom has
19 been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and
20 the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice
21 President of the United States, or any legal successors to such persons,
22 regardless of whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the
23 voter in a particular state;

24 'state' shall mean a state of the United States and the District of Columbia;
25 and

26 'statewide popular election' shall mean a general election in which votes are
27 cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a
28 statewide basis.

29 **§ 163-209.2. Additional implementing language for National Popular Vote**
30 **compact.**

31 (a) As used in G.S. 163-209.1:

32 (1) 'Chief election official' means the State Board of Elections.

33 (2) 'Presidential elector certifying official' means the Governor as
34 provided by G.S. 163-210.

35 (b) During any election in which the Agreement Among the States to Elect the
36 President by National Popular Vote applies.

37 (1) The State Board of Elections, rather than issuing a certificate of
38 election for presidential electors under G.S. 163-82.15, shall instead
39 issue a certificate of the results of the election.

40 (2) The reference to G.S. 163-209 contained in G.S. 163-1(c) shall instead
41 be read as G.S. 163-209.1.

42 (3) The Governor, instead of proclaiming elected under G.S. 163-210
43 those presidential electors receiving the most votes as stated in the

1 abstracts of the State Board of Elections, shall instead proclaim elected
2 the national popular vote winner as provided under G.S. 163-209.1."
3 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.