

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5599

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Approving the entry of Washington into the agreement among the states to elect the president by national popular vote.

Sponsors: Senators McDermott, Oemig, Kohl-Welles, Pridemore, Marr, Brown, Tom, Kline, McAuliffe, Regala and Shin.

Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections
House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs

Background: Candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States are not elected by direct popular vote. The candidates are elected by the electoral college, whose delegates are chosen by the states. Article II, Section 1 of the United States Constitution yields to states the absolute and exclusive authority to determine the manner of awarding their electoral votes. Each state has the same number of presidential electors as it has United States Representatives and Senators combined. In Washington, the Presidential candidate who receives the most votes statewide during the popular vote wins all the electoral votes in the state.

Summary: The awarding of Washington State electoral votes will be to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in the country as a whole. This act only goes into effect when states, which possess a majority of the electoral votes in the country, have entered into the same agreement.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	28	21
House	52	42

Effective: July 26, 2009

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.