



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2492/1
JK&MPG:ahe

2019 SENATE BILL 197

April 30, 2019 - Introduced by Senators HANSEN, WIRCH, LARSON and MILLER, cosponsored by Representatives HEBL, NEUBAUER, ANDERSON, BROSTOFF, CROWLEY, DOYLE, EMERSON, HESSELBEIN, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS, STUCK and C. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 5.10; *to amend* 7.70 (5) (b) and 7.75 (2); and
2 *to create* 5.10 (2), 5.11 and 5.12 of the statutes; **relating to:** entering into an
3 agreement among the states to elect the president of the United States by
4 means of a national popular vote.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, the names of the presidential electors do not appear on the ballot in this state. Instead, the names of the candidates for president and vice president appear on the ballot and each vote cast for one of the tickets is a vote for the presidential electors whose names are filed by their political party or, in the case of independent candidates, whose names are filed with the nomination papers of the candidates. After the winners of the presidential election in this state are determined, the presidential electors convene and cast their ballots for the candidates of the party who filed their names or for the independent candidates who filed their names.

This bill ratifies an agreement among the states which provides that if the agreement governs a particular presidential election, this state will certify the electors of the party, or in the case of independent candidates, the electors of the candidates, who win the national popular vote for president and vice president as the winning slate of presidential electors in this state. Under the agreement, the Elections Commission must certify to the other states the winners of the presidential and vice presidential vote in this state and must accept the determinations of the chief election officials of the other states in calculating the numbers of votes cast for

SENATE BILL 197

1 **(2)** ARTICLE II — RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE IN MEMBER STATES TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT
2 AND VICE PRESIDENT. Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular election
3 for president and vice president of the United States.

4 **(3)** ARTICLE III — MANNER OF APPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS IN MEMBER
5 STATES. (a) Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential
6 electors, the chief election official of each member state shall determine the number
7 of votes for each presidential slate in each state of the United States and in the
8 District of Columbia in which votes have been cast in a statewide popular election
9 and shall add such votes together to produce a “national popular vote total” for each
10 presidential slate.

11 (b) The chief election official of each member state shall designate the
12 presidential slate with the largest national popular vote total as the “national
13 popular vote winner.”

14 (c) The presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify
15 the appointment in that official’s own state of the elector slate nominated in that
16 state in association with the national popular vote winner.

17 (d) At least 6 days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the
18 presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the
19 number of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall
20 communicate an official statement of such determination within 24 hours to the chief
21 election official of each other member state.

22 (e) The chief election official of each member state shall treat as conclusive an
23 official statement containing the number of popular votes in a state for each
24 presidential slate made by the day established by federal law for making a state’s
25 final determination conclusive as to the counting of electoral votes by Congress.

SENATE BILL 197**SECTION 3**

1 (f) In event of a tie for the national popular vote winner, the presidential elector
2 certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment of the elector
3 slate nominated in association with the presidential slate receiving the largest
4 number of popular votes within that official's own state.

5 (g) If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a
6 member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or
7 greater than that state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the
8 presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall
9 have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state's
10 presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees.
11 The chief election official of each member state shall immediately release to the
12 public all vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

13 (h) This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each
14 member state in any year in which this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states
15 cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

16 **(4) ARTICLE IV — OTHER PROVISIONS.** (a) This agreement shall take effect when
17 states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this
18 agreement in substantially the same form, and the enactments by such states have
19 taken effect in each state.

20 (b) Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a
21 withdrawal occurring 6 months or less before the end of a president's term shall not
22 become effective until a president or vice president shall have been qualified to serve
23 the next term.

24 (c) The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief
25 executive of all other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken

SENATE BILL 197

1 effect in that official's state, when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and
2 when this agreement takes effect generally.

3 (d) This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

4 (e) If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions
5 shall not be affected.

6 **(5) ARTICLE V – DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this agreement:

7 (a) "Chief election official" shall mean the state official or body that is
8 authorized to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate.

9 (b) "Chief executive" shall mean the governor of a state of the United States or
10 the mayor of the District of Columbia.

11 (c) "Elector slate" shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated
12 in a state for the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential
13 slate.

14 (d) "Presidential elector" shall mean an elector for president and vice president
15 of the United States.

16 (e) "Presidential elector certifying official" shall mean the state official or body
17 that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential electors.

18 (f) "Presidential slate" shall mean a slate of 2 persons, the first of whom has
19 been nominated as a candidate for president of the United States and the 2nd of
20 whom has been nominated as a candidate for vice president of the United States, or
21 any legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on
22 the ballot presented to the voter in a particular state.

23 (g) "State" shall mean a state of the United States and the District of Columbia.

24 (h) "Statewide popular election" shall mean a general election in which votes
25 are cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.

SENATE BILL 197**SECTION 4**

1 **SECTION 4.** 5.12 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **5.12 Governor to notify reference bureau when agreement is in effect.**

3 Whenever the governor notifies the chief executives of the other states that the
4 agreement ratified under s. 5.11 is in effect in this state, or that this state has
5 withdrawn from the agreement, the governor shall concurrently notify the
6 legislative reference bureau that the agreement is in effect or is no longer in effect
7 in this state.

8 **SECTION 5.** 7.70 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 7.70 (5) (b) For presidential electors, the commission shall prepare a certificate
10 showing the determination of the results of the canvass and the names of the persons
11 elected as presidential electors, or if the compact under s. 5.11 governs the election
12 of presidential electors, the names of the persons who are certified as winners in
13 accordance with s. 5.11, and the governor shall sign, affix the great seal of the state,
14 and transmit the certificate by registered mail to the U.S. administrator of general
15 services. The governor shall also prepare 6 duplicate originals of such certificate and
16 deliver them to one of the presidential electors on or before the first Monday after the
17 2nd Wednesday in December.

18 **SECTION 6.** 7.75 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 7.75 (2) The Except as provided in this subsection, the presidential electors,
20 when convened, shall vote by ballot for that person for president and that person for
21 vice president who are, respectively, the candidates of the political party which
22 nominated them under s. 8.18, the candidates whose names appeared on the
23 nomination papers filed under s. 8.20, or the candidate or candidates who filed their
24 names under s. 8.185 (2), except that at least one of the persons for whom the electors
25 vote may not be an inhabitant of this state. A presidential elector is not required to

SENATE BILL 197

1 vote for a candidate who is deceased at the time of the meeting. If the compact under
2 s. 5.11 governs the election of presidential electors, the presidential electors shall
3 vote for the persons for president and vice president who are, respectively, certified
4 as winners under s. 5.11.

5 **SECTION 7. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after publication,
6 except as follows:

7 (1) The treatment of ss. 7.70 (5) (b) and 7.75 (2), the renumbering and
8 amendment of s. 5.10, and the creation of s. 5.10 (2) take effect upon notification by
9 the governor to the legislative reference bureau that the agreement ratified by this
10 state under s. 5.11 is in effect in this state.

11 (END)