

# HOUSE BILL 148

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CF SB 634

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By: **Delegates Hixson, Barve, Howard, N. King, Murphy, Olszewski, Rice, and F. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2007

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Presidential Elections – Agreement Among the States to Elect the President**  
3 **by National Popular Vote**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain methods of nominating presidential electors;  
5 altering certain methods of electing presidential electors; repealing a certain  
6 restriction governing elector voting; entering the State of Maryland into the  
7 Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote;  
8 providing that any state is eligible to become a member state; requiring a  
9 statewide popular election for President and Vice President of the United  
10 States; establishing a certain procedure for appointing presidential electors in  
11 member states; specifying when the Agreement becomes effective; providing for  
12 the withdrawal of a member state; requiring notification of member states;  
13 specifying that the provisions of the Agreement are severable; defining certain  
14 terms; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally relating  
15 to the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular  
16 Vote.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Election Law  
19 Section 8–503, 8–504, and 8–505

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

3 BY adding to  
4 Article – Election Law  
5 Section 8–5A–01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5A. Agreement Among  
6 the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote”  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2003 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article – Election Law**

12 8–503.

13 (a) Each political party shall nominate or provide for the nomination of  
14 candidates for presidential elector of the party in accordance with party rules.

15 (b) The number of candidates nominated by each political party shall be the  
16 number that this State is entitled to elect.

17 (c) (1) The names of individuals nominated as candidates for presidential  
18 elector by a political party shall be certified to the State Board by the presiding officers  
19 of the political party.

20 (2) The names of individuals nominated as candidates for presidential  
21 elector by a candidate for President of the United States who is nominated by petition  
22 shall be certified to the State Board by the candidate on a form prescribed by the State  
23 Board.

24 (3) The electors shall be certified to the State Board at least 30 days  
25 before the general election.

26 **(D) IF THE NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS NOMINATED IS LESS**  
27 **THAN OR GREATER THAN THE STATE’S NUMBER OF ELECTORAL VOTES,**  
28 **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS SHALL BE NOMINATED AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER**  
29 **ARTICLE III OF § 8–5A–01 OF THIS TITLE.**

30 8–504.

1           (a)   (1)   At the general election for President and Vice President of the  
2 United States there shall be elected, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section,  
3 the number of presidential electors to which this State is entitled.

4           (2)   Presidential electors shall be elected [at large by the voters of the  
5 entire State] **UNDER THE PROCEDURE PROVIDED IN § 8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE.**

6           (b)   (1)   The names of the candidates for the office of presidential elector  
7 may not be printed on the ballot.

8           (2)   A vote for the candidates for President and Vice President of a  
9 political party shall be considered to be and counted as a vote for each of the  
10 presidential electors of the political party nominated in accordance with § 8-503 of  
11 this subtitle.

12 8-505.

13           (a)   (1)   The individuals elected to the office of presidential elector shall  
14 meet in the State House in the City of Annapolis on the day provided by the  
15 Constitution and laws of the United States.

16           (2)   The conduct of the meeting shall be consistent with the  
17 requirements of federal law.

18           (b)   (1)   Before proceeding to perform the duties of their office, the  
19 presidential electors who are present shall fill any vacancy in the office of elector,  
20 whether the vacancy is caused by absence or other reason.

21           (2)   An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is entitled to all rights  
22 and privileges of the duly elected electors.

23           (c)   After taking the oath prescribed by Article I, § 9 of the Maryland  
24 Constitution before the Clerk of the Court of Appeals or, in the Clerk's absence, before  
25 one of the Clerk's deputies, the presidential electors shall cast their votes for the  
26 candidates for President and Vice President who received a plurality of the votes cast  
27 in [the State of Maryland] **THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE TOTAL DEFINED IN §**  
28 **8-5A-01 OF THIS TITLE.**

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
30 read as follows:

1                   **SUBTITLE 5A. AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO ELECT**  
2                   **THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE.**

3                   **8-5A-01.**

4                   **THE STATE OF MARYLAND HEREBY ENTERS THE AGREEMENT AMONG**  
5                   **THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AS SET**  
6                   **FORTH IN THIS SECTION. THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:**

7                   **ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP.**

8                   **ANY STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
9                   **MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS AGREEMENT BY ENACTING THIS AGREEMENT.**

10                  **ARTICLE II. RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE IN MEMBER STATES TO VOTE FOR**  
11                  **PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.**

12                  **EACH MEMBER STATE SHALL CONDUCT A STATEWIDE POPULAR ELECTION**  
13                  **FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

14                  **ARTICLE III. MANNER OF APPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS IN**  
15                  **MEMBER STATES.**

16                  **PRIOR TO THE TIME SET BY LAW FOR THE MEETING AND VOTING BY THE**  
17                  **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL OF EACH MEMBER**  
18                  **STATE SHALL DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF VOTES FOR EACH PRESIDENTIAL**  
19                  **SLATE IN EACH STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE DISTRICT OF**  
20                  **COLUMBIA IN WHICH VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST IN A STATEWIDE POPULAR**  
21                  **ELECTION AND SHALL ADD SUCH VOTES TOGETHER TO PRODUCE A “NATIONAL**  
22                  **POPULAR VOTE TOTAL” FOR EACH PRESIDENTIAL SLATE.**

23                  **THE CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL OF EACH MEMBER STATE SHALL**  
24                  **DESIGNATE THE PRESIDENTIAL SLATE WITH THE LARGEST NATIONAL POPULAR**  
25                  **VOTE TOTAL AS THE “NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE WINNER.”**

26                  **THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OF EACH MEMBER**  
27                  **STATE SHALL CERTIFY THE APPOINTMENT IN THAT OFFICIAL’S OWN STATE OF**  
28                  **THE ELECTOR SLATE NOMINATED IN THAT STATE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE**  
29                  **NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE WINNER.**





1           **“PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL” SHALL MEAN THE**  
2 **STATE OFFICIAL OR BODY THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO CERTIFY THE APPOINTMENT**  
3 **OF THE STATE’S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS;**

4           **“PRESIDENTIAL SLATE” SHALL MEAN A SLATE OF TWO PERSONS, THE**  
5 **FIRST OF WHOM HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF**  
6 **THE UNITED STATES AND THE SECOND OF WHOM HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS A**  
7 **CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, OR ANY LEGAL**  
8 **SUCCESSORS TO SUCH PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER BOTH NAMES**  
9 **APPEAR ON THE BALLOT PRESENTED TO THE VOTER IN A PARTICULAR STATE;**

10           **“STATE” SHALL MEAN A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE**  
11 **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; AND**

12           **“STATEWIDE POPULAR ELECTION” SHALL MEAN A GENERAL ELECTION IN**  
13 **WHICH VOTES ARE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL SLATES BY INDIVIDUAL VOTERS**  
14 **AND COUNTED ON A STATEWIDE BASIS.**

15           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act may  
16 not take effect until the interstate compact entitled “Agreement Among the States to  
17 Elect the President by National Popular Vote” is enacted in substantially the same  
18 form by states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes and the  
19 enactments of the compact have taken effect in each state; that Section 1 of this Act  
20 shall only govern the appointment of presidential electors in any year in which the  
21 Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote is, on  
22 July 20, in effect in states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes;  
23 that all the states of the United States are requested to concur in this Act of the  
24 General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a similar Act; and that the  
25 Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials of the  
26 combined states of the enactment of this Act.

27           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in  
28 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.