

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 472  
Ways and Means

(Delegate O'Donnell, *et al.*)

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Presidential Elections - Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by  
National Popular Vote - Repeal

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This bill withdraws Maryland from the "Agreement Among the States to Elect the President By National Popular Vote."

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill will not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapters 43 and 44 of 2007 established Maryland as a member of the agreement, under which Maryland will commit its presidential electors to the national popular vote winner in a presidential election upon the agreement taking effect. The agreement takes effect when it is enacted in substantially the same form by states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes and the enactments of the agreement have taken effect in each of those states. Currently, Maryland's presidential electors cast their votes for the presidential and vice presidential candidates who receive a plurality of the votes cast in the State.

**Background:** The effort to enact the agreement nationwide was begun in 2006, aimed at changing aspects of the current system of electing the President, including the

concentration of campaigning in a minority of closely divided states and the ability of a candidate to win the presidency without winning the national popular vote.

According to National Popular Vote Inc., a nonprofit organization that began the nationwide popular vote agreement proposal, the agreement has been enacted so far in four states (Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey) and, short of enactment, has been approved by committees and legislative chambers in various other states. The four states in which the agreement has been enacted possess 50 electoral votes, which is 18.5% of the 270 necessary to bring the agreement into effect.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2009  
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