

HB 289 -- Interstate Compact on the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote Act

Sponsor: Roorda

This bill authorizes Missouri to enter into an interstate agreement known as the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote in order to elect the President of the United States with a majority of the popular vote. Currently, electors to the Electoral College typically favor the presidential candidate receiving the majority of their state's popular vote for president. The state agreement requires the chief election official of each state to designate electors to the Electoral College that will vote in favor of the presidential slate receiving a majority of the votes cast nationwide. Methods for ensuring the accuracy of the national popular vote are specified.

The agreement will take effect on July 20 of the year in which it becomes effective in those states or districts that have a majority of electoral votes in the Electoral College. Interstate agreements are typically binding on the states involved and generally supercede both statutes and state constitutional law; however, this agreement allows any state to withdraw by a simple repeal of the enacting statute. A state cannot withdraw from the agreement during the six months preceding a presidential election. In the case of the abolition of the Electoral College, the compact will be void. Because the states have autonomy to choose electors to the Electoral College, the agreement is not a compact and does not require congressional approval to become effective.