
HOUSE BILL 1143

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives D. Schmidt, Morris, Benson, Edmonds, Ogden,
Jackley and Lovick

Read first time 01/18/2001. Referred to Committee on State
Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to presidential electors; and amending RCW
2 29.71.020 and 29.71.040.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.71.020 and 1990 c 59 s 69 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) In the year in which a presidential election is held, each
7 major political party and each minor political party or
8 independent candidate convention held under chapter 29.24 RCW that
9 nominates candidates for president and vice-president of the
10 United States shall nominate one congressional district elector
11 representing each congressional district of this state and two
12 state presidential electors ((for this)) representing the entire
13 state. The party or convention shall file with the secretary of
14 state a certificate signed by the presiding officer of the
15 convention at which the presidential electors were chosen, listing
16 the names and addresses of the state presidential electors and the
17 congressional district electors. Each presidential elector shall
18 execute and file with the secretary of state a pledge that, as an

1 elector, he or she will vote for the candidates nominated by that
2 party. The names of presidential electors shall not appear on the
3 ballots.

4 (2) The votes cast statewide for candidates for president and
5 vice-president of each political party shall be counted for the
6 candidates for state presidential electors of that political
7 party. The candidates for state presidential electors representing
8 the party of the candidates for president and vice-president
9 receiving the most votes statewide will be the state presidential
10 electors for the state.

11 (3) The votes cast in a congressional district for candidates
12 for president and vice-president of each political party must be
13 counted for the candidate for congressional district presidential
14 elector of that party. The candidate for congressional district
15 elector representing the party of the candidates for president and
16 vice-president receiving the most votes in the congressional
17 district will be the congressional district elector for that
18 district.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.71.040 and 1977 ex.s. c 238 s 2 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 The congressional district and state electors of the president
22 and vice-president selected under RCW 29.71.020 shall convene at
23 the seat of government on the day fixed by federal statute, at the
24 hour of twelve o'clock noon of that day. If there is any vacancy in
25 the office of an elector occasioned by death, refusal to act,
26 neglect to attend, or otherwise, the electors present shall
27 immediately proceed to fill it by viva voce, and plurality of
28 votes. When all of the electors have appeared and the vacancies
29 have been filled they shall constitute the college of electors of
30 the state of Washington, and shall proceed to perform the duties
31 required of them by the Constitution and laws of the United
32 States. Each congressional district elector shall vote for the
33 presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the
34 highest number of votes in the district the elector
35 represents. Each state elector shall vote for the presidential and
36 vice-presidential candidates who received the highest number of
37 votes in this state. Any elector who votes for a person or

1 persons not nominated by the party of which he or she is an
2 elector, or in a manner otherwise inconsistent with this section,
3 shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to a fine of one
4 thousand dollars.

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