

NEWS:

National Popular Vote Bill Heading to the Governor After Clearing the General Assembly



March 15, 2019 – By a vote of 24 to 17, the House of Representatives on Thursday sent the [National Popular Vote Bill](#) to Gov. John Carney for his consideration.

The Senate approved the measure last week, 14 to 7.

All 24 House votes supporting the controversial measure came from Democratic lawmakers.

The governor's office confirmed that while the bill is not an initiative sought by the Carney administration, the governor is expected to sign it, pending a legal review.

If enacted, the legislation will make Delaware part of an interstate compact, the members of which would pledge their electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the majority of the national popular vote.

The compact would become active when its members' collective electoral votes total at least 270 -- the minimum number needed to secure a presidential victory.

Thus far, 12 jurisdictions (Hawaii, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Vermont, California, New York, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia), possessing a total of 172 electoral votes, have joined the compact.

The Colorado legislature recently approved the National Popular Vote bill and will become a party to the compact as soon as its governor signs the measure. With The Centennial State in the fold, the compact's collective vote total will climb to 181.

State House Minority Whip Tim Dukes, R-Laurel, says part of his opposition to the bill was due to his belief that it is sidestepping the appropriate process for making such a fundamental change. "The proposal is an end-run around the requirements of the U.S. Constitution," he said. "If the supporters of national popular vote believe in the merits of their cause, they should be pursuing it through a constitutional amendment, not an interstate compact."

State Rep. Bryan Shupe, R-Milford, says the compact would remove the ability of Delawareans to determine which presidential candidate earns the state's three electoral votes, instead ceding that authority to voters in other states.

State Rep. Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, says the current Electoral College system was designed to safeguard the interests of small states like Delaware by giving them disproportionate influence in presidential elections. He said the National Popular Vote compact eliminates that protection, which is one of the reasons he voted against the legislation.

State Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden-Wyoming, also voted against Senate Bill 22, noting it seeks to replace a system with an effective 230-year track record with one whose impact is "impossible to gauge."