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HOUSE BILL 1696

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stokesbary and MacEwen

1 AN ACT Relating to presidential electors; and amending RCW  
2 29A.56.310, 29A.56.320, and 29A.56.340.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.56.310 and 2003 c 111 s 1424 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 On the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in the year in  
7 which a president of the United States is to be elected, there shall  
8 be elected (~~as many electors of president and vice president of the~~  
9 ~~United States as there are senators and representatives in Congress~~  
10 ~~allotted to this state~~) one presidential elector from each  
11 congressional district and two electors from the state at large. Each  
12 elector may have an alternate to stand in for the elector in case of  
13 death, refusal to act, or neglect to attend the electors meeting.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.56.320 and 2013 c 11 s 56 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 In the year in which a presidential election is held, each major  
17 political party and each minor political party or independent  
18 candidate convention that nominates candidates for president and vice  
19 president of the United States shall nominate a presidential  
20 elector(~~s for~~) and alternate for each congressional district in

1 this state and two electors and alternates from the state at large,  
2 in accordance with RCW 29A.56.310. The party or convention shall file  
3 with the secretary of state a certificate signed by the presiding  
4 officer of the convention at which the presidential electors were  
5 chosen, listing the names and addresses of the presidential electors.  
6 Each presidential elector and alternate shall execute and file with  
7 the secretary of state a pledge that, as an elector, he or she will  
8 vote for the candidates nominated by that party. The names of  
9 presidential electors shall not appear on the ballots. The votes cast  
10 for candidates for president and vice president of each political  
11 party shall be counted for the candidates for presidential electors  
12 of that political party; however, if the interstate compact entitled  
13 the "agreement among the states to elect the president by national  
14 popular vote," as set forth in RCW 29A.56.300, governs the  
15 appointment of the presidential electors for a presidential election  
16 as provided in clause 9 of Article III of that compact, then the  
17 final appointment of presidential electors for that presidential  
18 election shall be in accordance with that compact. The congressional  
19 district presidential elector shall be the elector from the political  
20 party whose presidential and vice presidential candidates received  
21 the most number of votes in the congressional district. The at-large  
22 presidential electors shall be electors from the political party for  
23 the presidential and vice presidential candidates who received the  
24 most number of votes in the state.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.56.340 and 2003 c 111 s 1427 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 The electors of the president and vice president shall convene at  
28 the seat of government on the day fixed by federal statute, at the  
29 hour of twelve o'clock noon of that day. If there is any vacancy in  
30 the office of an elector, the elector's designated alternate shall be  
31 recognized as the elector. If there is a vacancy in the office of  
32 both the elector and alternate occasioned by death, refusal to act,  
33 neglect to attend, or otherwise, the electors of the same political  
34 party present shall immediately proceed to fill it by voice vote, and  
35 plurality of votes. When all of the electors have appeared and the  
36 vacancies have been filled they shall constitute the college of  
37 electors of the state of Washington, and shall proceed to perform the  
38 duties required of them by the Constitution and laws of the United  
39 States. Any elector who votes for a person or persons not nominated

1 by the party of which he or she is an elector is subject to a civil  
2 penalty of up to one thousand dollars.

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