

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2007

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4225.

The bill enacts into law the “Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote,” and conforms various New Jersey statutes to the provisions of the agreement.

The agreement, section 1 of this bill, is enacted as an interstate compact and requires that the electors for president and vice president of the United States in each member state cast their electoral votes for the presidential slate that won the popular vote nationwide. Therefore, this agreement changes the current operation of the electoral college in New Jersey, where electoral votes are allocated in the winner-take-all manner to the presidential slate that won the most votes in the State, regardless of whether that presidential slate won the popular vote nationwide. Under the agreement, the New Jersey electors associated with the presidential slate that wins the most popular votes nationwide will be certified as the elector slate for the purpose of casting the State’s electoral votes.

The agreement becomes effective only after it has been enacted by enough states to collectively possess the majority of the electoral votes required to decide a presidential win – currently 270 of the 538 electoral votes.

By enactment, New Jersey joins the efforts in other States to reform the current system of electing the president and vice president of the United States, as supported by approximately 70% of all Americans. This agreement ensures that all states are competitive in presidential elections, makes all votes important and equal, and guarantees that the candidate who received the most popular votes nationwide wins the presidency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not certified as requiring a fiscal note.