

**R018-0607**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL**  
20     **ELECTORS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

30     **WHEREAS:**     Unlike members of the United States Congress, members of all fifty  
40                     state legislatures, and all fifty governors, the President of the United  
50                     States is not decided by the outcome of the popular vote; and,

60     **WHEREAS:**     The President is chosen by the outcome of the Electoral College, in  
70                     which each state is granted a number of electoral votes equal to the  
80                     number of seats the state has in Congress; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     In forty-eight states, including Maryland, a slate of Electors chosen is  
100                    pledged to the winner of the popular vote within the state; and,

110    **WHEREAS:**     Because of this system, it is possible that the winner of the Electoral  
120                    College does not receive a plurality of the national popular vote; and,

140    **WHEREAS:**     In 2000, George W. Bush won the election with 271 electoral votes  
150                    compared to Al Gore's 266 electoral votes despite losing the popular  
160                    vote by almost 500,000 votes; and,

170    **WHEREAS:**     The current structure of the Electoral College causes Presidential  
180                    candidates to give a disproportionate amount of attention to a select few  
190                    'swing states', such as Ohio and Florida; and,

200    **WHEREAS:**     Maryland, as a Democratic stronghold, receives little, if any, attention  
210                    in Presidential elections, because it is assumed that our Electoral votes  
220                    will go to the Democratic candidate; and,

230    **WHEREAS:**     Numerous attempts to modify or abolish the Electoral College on the  
240                    federal level have failed; and,

250    **WHEREAS:**     If a group of states that controlled a majority of the electoral votes  
260                    agreed to give their electoral votes to the national popular vote winner,  
270                    then the winner of the national popular vote would always be the  
280                    Electoral College winner; and,

290    **WHEREAS:**     If the national popular vote winner determined the outcome of the  
300                    election, all voters, no matter their state of residence, would have the  
310                    same voice in the election; and,

320    **WHEREAS:**     Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegate Shelia Hixson have introduced  
330                    Senate Bill 634 and House Bill 148, legislation that would enter  
340                    Maryland into the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President  
350                    by National Popular Vote; and,

360    **WHEREAS:**     This agreement would require member states to appoint the slate of  
370                    Electors designated to the winner of the national popular vote; and,

380    **WHEREAS:**     The agreement would not go into effect until states possessing a  
390                    cumulative majority of the electoral votes have enacted the agreement.

400    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the  
410                    Maryland General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 634 and House Bill

420 148; and,

430 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the  
440 Governor to sign this legislation into law.

450 **MANDATES:** Jamie Raskin, Maryland State Senator and Sponsor of SB 634  
460 Shelia Hixson, Chair of House of Delegates Ways & Means Committee  
470 and Sponsor of HB 148  
480 Joan Carter Conway, Chair of Senate Education, Health and  
490 Environmental Affairs Committee  
500 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate  
510 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates  
520 Martin J. O'Malley, Governor of Maryland

**SPONSOR:**

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