

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 271

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Version: Delete Everything Amendment

Authors: Brod and others

Subject: Bind Presidential Electors

Analyst: Deborah K. McKnight, Legislative Analyst (651-296-5056)

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Overview

The bill requires presidential electors to vote for the candidate under whose name the elector was elected. Public perception is that electors fill a ceremonial role that confirms the popular election, but nothing in current law enforces that perception.

Requires each elector to vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates in whose name the elector was elected. Requires electors to vote by public ballot and state aloud or affirm nonverbally the candidates for whom the elector is voting. Invalidates the vote of an elector who fails to follow this requirement. Makes the secretary of state the elector's agent to cast a vote for the candidates under whose names the elector was elected. Invalidation does not apply if the presidential or vice-presidential candidates release the elector, die, or become mentally disabled.

Specifies that an alternate must be named for each presidential elector. The alternate will serve if the elector does not appear.