



HJ0068

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is often regarded as having  
3 two distinct regions, the urban Cook County area and downstate  
4 Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Even communities north of Chicago are considered  
6 "downstate" because their needs, interests, economies, and  
7 cultures have more in common with rural southern and central  
8 Illinois counties than they do with urban Cook County; and

9 WHEREAS, The majority of residents in downstate Illinois  
10 disagree with urban Cook County on key policy issues; for  
11 example, 61 outstate Illinois counties, from the Wisconsin  
12 state line to the Kentucky state line, have approved  
13 resolutions to become sanctuary counties for gun owners, while  
14 the City of Chicago has some of the strictest gun laws in the  
15 country; and

16 WHEREAS, The divide between urban Cook County and the rest  
17 of Illinois is frequently manifested in electoral results such  
18 as the 2010 gubernatorial election in which the winning  
19 candidate carried only four out of 102 counties and, in fact,  
20 did not need to carry any other counties to win because of the  
21 margin of victory in urban Cook County; and

1           WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court ruling Reynolds v. Sims  
2           (1964) removed the geographic element from districting for the  
3           state legislature, and, as Illinois' U.S. Senator Everett  
4           Dirksen warned, this caused power to be concentrated in  
5           Chicago and resulted in rural areas losing their voice in  
6           state government; and

7           WHEREAS, Article IV Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution  
8           guarantees a republican form of government, but the people of  
9           rural, small town and suburban outstate Illinois do not  
10          experience this; and

11          WHEREAS, This concentration of power in Illinois' largest  
12          urban area opened the door to extreme gerrymandering and  
13          further decreased the voice of outstate Illinoisans;  
14          gerrymandering has enabled one county, with 40% of the state  
15          population, to dominate the other 60%; and

16          WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Illinois  
17          Constitution requires districts to be compact; both state and  
18          federal districts have shapes resembling snakes, dinosaurs,  
19          gloves, jaws, and a pipe wrench; this includes the " earmuffs"  
20          district, which The Economist called one of the "most  
21          strangely drawn and gerrymandered congressional districts in  
22          the country"; and

1           WHEREAS, Article I, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution  
2 Bill of Rights declares that all men are by nature free and  
3 independent and have certain inherent and inalienable rights  
4 among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;  
5 to secure these rights and the protection of property,  
6 governments are instituted among men, deriving their just  
7 powers from the consent of the governed; and

8           WHEREAS, The lack of representative government has  
9 decreased accountability, has allowed corruption to flourish,  
10 and has led to Illinois being rated the third most corrupt  
11 state and Chicago the most corrupt city in the nation; and

12           WHEREAS, This has led to the government of Illinois having  
13 the worst financial health of all 50 states, while giving the  
14 people of Illinois the greatest collective state and local tax  
15 burden of all 50 states, and because the General Assembly is  
16 dominated by one county, the people of downstate Illinois have  
17 experienced legislation, taxation, and regulation without  
18 representation; and

19           WHEREAS, Amendment XIV of the U.S. Constitution guarantees  
20 equal protection under the laws; and

21           WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is frequently treated as a  
22 separate region of the State and has often been exempted from

1 major legislative initiatives the General Assembly enacts into  
2 law because of this fact; and

3 WHEREAS, The divide between rural, small town, and  
4 suburban Illinois and the City of Chicago spans the 200-year  
5 history of the State, and there have been several attempts in  
6 the past to split Illinois into two states; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago passed a resolution in 1925  
8 to form the State of Chicago; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1971, West Central Illinoisans declared their  
10 region the "Republic of Forgottonia"; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1981, Democrat State Senator Howard Carroll of  
12 Chicago passed a Cook County state split bill through both  
13 chambers of the legislature; and

14 WHEREAS, Organizations, such as New Illinois, Illinois  
15 Separation, and The State of Southern Illinois, continue  
16 pushing for the formation of a new state truly representing  
17 the rural, small town, and suburban residents of Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2020, an advisory referendum for the creation  
19 of a new state appeared on the ballots in 22 counties and, in  
20 each county, won by a landslide of 70-80%; and

1           WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the  
2 United States provides in part: "New States may be admitted by  
3 Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or  
4 erected within the Jurisdiction of any other state; nor any  
5 State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts  
6 of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the  
7 States concerned as well as of the Congress"; four states in  
8 the Union have been formed by this process, most recently West  
9 Virginia; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States  
13 Congress to take action to declare the 101 counties of  
14 outstate Illinois, along with outlying areas of Cook County  
15 wishing to be included, the 51st state of the United States of  
16 America and separate it from the rest of Illinois; and be it  
17 further

18           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to all Illinois constitutional officers, the Speaker  
20 and Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives,  
21 and the President and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate.