

S. 2362

A. 3116

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2015

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IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT in relation to establishing a bi-county commission in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk to study the feasibility of establishing the state of Long Island

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative findings: Nassau and Suffolk counties comprise  
2     an area of 2,826 square miles, larger than the states of Rhode Island  
3     and Delaware. The combined population of the two counties is 2.832  
4     million which is greater than the population of 17 states. For the years  
5     2002-2004, Long Island paid 8.124 billion dollars in state taxes yet  
6     only 5.2 billion dollars was returned in direct local aid, tuition  
7     assistance, highway aid, pension payments, lottery money, metropolitan  
8     transportation authority subsidies and Medicaid payments. For many years  
9     the question of forming the state of Long Island has been discussed in  
10    public and academic forums. The issue should be investigated, a report  
11    prepared and referendum held in Nassau and Suffolk counties so the citi-  
12    zens may be heard.

13    S 2. There is hereby established a Nassau and Suffolk bi-county  
14    commission to study the feasibility of forming the state of Long Island  
15    to consist of the counties of Nassau and Suffolk. Such commission shall  
16    be comprised of 24 members, 12 of whom shall reside in the county of  
17    Nassau and 12 of whom shall reside in the county of Suffolk. The county  
18    executive of each county shall serve on the commission as co-chairs. Of  
19    the remaining 22 members, 5 members from each county shall be appointed  
20    by the county executive of the county in which such county executive

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 serves; 3 members from each county shall be appointed by the majority  
2 leader of the county legislature from the county in which such majority  
3 leader serves, and 3 members from each county shall be appointed by the  
4 minority leader of the county legislature from the county in which such  
5 minority leader serves. Members of the commission shall receive no  
6 compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and  
7 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Members  
8 of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing  
9 authority. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same  
10 manner as the original appointment.

11 S 3. The study authorized by section two of this act shall be  
12 completed and submitted to the Nassau county legislature and the Suffolk  
13 county legislature on or before July 1, 2017.

14 S 4. At the general election to be held November 7, 2017, the county  
15 of Nassau and the county of Suffolk shall be submitted to the voters of  
16 such counties, a referendum concerning whether or not the state of Long  
17 Island shall be formed. Such referendum shall be deemed approved if it  
18 is approved by a majority of the voters voting on such referendum in  
19 each county, provided however that the approval of such referendum shall  
20 not be binding upon the county of Nassau or the county of Suffolk.

21 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.