STATE OF NEW YORK

5760

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT in relation to establishing a separate states working group to conduct a study on Long Island statehood; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established within the office of the state comptroller a working group to be known as the "separate states working group". The working group shall conduct a study examining dividing New York into separate states by having the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, hereinafter referred to as "Long Island", become a separate state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) a cost benefit analysis of separating New York into two separate states, including, but not limited to, economic opportunity for both areas;

(b) the legal ramifications of separating New York into two separate states;

(c) the general up-front cost associated with separating New York into two separate states, exclusive of the long-term economic ramifications, including, but not limited to the cost of creating two new state governments, the separation of the physical and organizational infrastructure, and the cost of settling land disputes;

(d) the constitutional steps necessary to separate New York into two separate states; and

(e) any constitutional precedents in the United States for dividing a state into two separate states.

§ 2. The working group shall consist of the following:

(a) the state comptroller and his or her designee;

(b) one member appointed by the comptroller;

(c) the attorney general and his or her designee;

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

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(d) one member appointed by the attorney general;
(e) two members appointed by the governor;
(f) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
(g) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
(h) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;
(i) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
(j) two members appointed by the New York State Association of Counties;
(k) two members appointed by the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials; and
(l) two members appointed by the Association of Towns of the State of New York.

§ 3. At the conclusion of the study, the working group will deliver a report of its findings to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the comptroller. Such report shall be submitted no later than twelve months following the effective date of this act.

§ 4. The members and staff personnel of the separate states working group shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for their reasonable, actual and necessary expenses, provided however, members of the working group representing state agencies may receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses from their respective agencies. Members of the separate states working group shall be considered state employees for the purposes of sections 17 and 19 of the public officers law.

§ 5. For the purposes of this act, the comptroller may conduct such study in conjunction with any other department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency, or public authority of the state he or she deems necessary. To the maximum extent feasible, the comptroller shall be authorized to request, receive, and utilize such resources and data of any other department, division, board, bureau, commission, agency, or public authority of the state as he or she may reasonably request to properly carry out his or her powers and duties pursuant to this act.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such date.