

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) one member appointed by the comptroller;

24 (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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- 1 (d) one member appointed by the attorney general;
- 2 (e) two members appointed by the governor;
- 3 (f) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
- 4 (g) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
- 5 (h) one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;
- 6 (i) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
- 7 (j) two members appointed by the New York State Association of Coun-
- 8 ties;
- 9 (k) two members appointed by the New York State Conference of Mayors
- 10 and Municipal Officials; and
- 11 (l) two members appointed by the Association of Towns of the State of
- 12 New York.

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

19 § 4. The members and staff personnel of the separate states working
20 group shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible to receive
21 reimbursement for their reasonable, actual and necessary expenses,
22 provided however, members of the working group representing state agen-
23 cies may receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses
24 from their respective agencies. Members of the separate states working
25 group shall be considered state employees for the purposes of sections
26 17 and 19 of the public officers law.

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

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