

**HOME RULE MESSAGE REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO ENACT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A BI-COUNTY COMMISSION IN THE COUNTIES OF NASSAU AND SUFFOLK TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE STATE OF LONG ISLAND (SENATE BILL S.2362A AND ASSEMBLY BILL A.3116A)**

**WHEREAS**, Long Island sends billions of dollars annually to Albany in taxes on income, corporations, sales, mortgage, tobacco, insurance and alcohol, as well as racing and motor vehicle fees and MTA commuter taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2002 and 2004, Long Islanders paid \$8.124 billion in state taxes yet only \$5.2 billion was returned to the Island in direct local aid, tuition assistance, highway aid, pension payments, lottery money, MTA subsidies and Medicaid payments; and

**WHEREAS**, if this inequitable tax distribution was remedied, the average Long Island family of four would realize approximately thousands of dollars per year in tax savings; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a growing demand for Suffolk and Nassau counties to consolidate into one government to be known the State of Long Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the imbalance of payments between Long Island and Albany could be addressed by the creation of a state made up of both counties allowing the residents in the counties to exercise more control over their finances and relieve them of Albany mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, Long Island is geographically larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware and has a population of just under three million residents, which is larger than the combined populations of 17 states; and

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility of establishing Nassau and Suffolk Counties as a separate state should be seriously studied by representatives of both counties; now, therefore, be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that this Legislature hereby supports Senate Bill No. S.2362A and Assembly Bill No. A.3116A to establish a bi-county commission to study the feasibility of establishing the State of Long Island and authorize a non-binding ballot referendum for Nassau and Suffolk Counties in November, 2018; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of this Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; to the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate John Flanagan; to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly Carl Heastie; to the Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly; and to each member of the Long Island delegation to the New York State Legislature.

DATED: \*\*JUNE 1, 2016 NOT ADOPTED\*\*