



HR1138

LRB100 22186 MST 40698 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is often regarded as having two distinct regions, the City of Chicago and downstate Illinois; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Even communities north of Chicago are considered "downstate" because they have more in common with rural southern and central Illinois counties than they do with the City of Chicago; and

6

7

8

9

WHEREAS, The divide between the City of Chicago and downstate Illinois is frequently manifested in electoral results such as the 2010 gubernatorial election in which the Democrat candidate won the election despite only carrying four counties out of 102 counties, and in fact, did not need to carry any other counties to win because of the margin of victory in Chicago and Cook County; and

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is frequently treated as a separate region of the State and has often been exempted from major legislative initiatives the General Assembly enacts in law because of this fact; and

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is often bailed out by taxpayers in the rest of the State such as the \$221 million

21

1 bailout for the CPS pension system that was signed into law
2 last year; and

3 WHEREAS, Numerous counties in the southern and central
4 parts of Illinois are approving resolutions to become sanctuary
5 counties for gun owners, while the City of Chicago has some of
6 the strictest gun laws in the country; and

7 WHEREAS, The majority of residents in downstate Illinois
8 disagree with City of Chicago residents on key issues such as
9 gun ownership, abortion, immigration, and other policy issues;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The dissension between downstate Illinois and the
12 City of Chicago spans the nearly 200-year history of the State,
13 and there have been several attempts in the past to divide
14 Illinois into two states; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Western Illinoisans declared their region as the
18 "Republic of Forgottonia"; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1981, State Senator Howard Carroll passed a
20 Cook County succession bill through both chambers of the State

1 Legislature; and

2 WHEREAS, There continue to be organizations pushing for
3 separation between the City of Chicago and downstate Illinois
4 such as the "Southern Illinois Secession Movement"; and

5 WHEREAS, Separation of states continues to be a focus in
6 the news media as there is a movement in California to divide
7 that state into multiple states; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 urge the United States Congress to take action to declare the
11 City of Chicago the 51st state of the United States of America
12 and separate it from the rest of Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 delivered to all Illinois constitutional officers, the Speaker
15 and Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives,
16 and the President and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate.