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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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 state split 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; and

8 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the
9 United States provides in part: "New States may be admitted by
10 Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or
11 erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any
12 State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts
13 of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the
14 States concerned as well as of the Congress."; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we urge the United States Congress to take action to declare
18 the City of Chicago the 51st state of the United States of
19 America and separate it from the rest of Illinois; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to all Illinois constitutional officers, the Speaker
2 and Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives,
3 and the President and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate.