



HJ0052

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is functional to the extent  
3 that its people agree on politics, society, and economics; and

4 WHEREAS, The people who constitute a majority of Cook  
5 County and the people who constitute a majority of the other  
6 101 counties in Illinois hold different and firmly seated views  
7 on these important questions; and

8 WHEREAS, Cook County, on one hand, and the other 101  
9 counties, on the other, are each roughly equal in population;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Both groups should enjoy the chance to govern  
12 themselves with their firmly seated values; and

13 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the  
14 United States provides that "(n)ew States may be admitted by  
15 the Congress into this Union; but no new States shall be formed  
16 or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any  
17 State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts  
18 of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the  
19 States concerned as well as of the Congress."; and

20 WHEREAS, From 1776 to 1820, Maine was a physically separate

1 but politically contiguous part of the State of Massachusetts;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, This arrangement did not work very well and  
4 Massachusetts agreed to the secession in a law approved by the  
5 Governor of Massachusetts on June 19, 1819; and

6 WHEREAS, The law authorized that the inhabitants of Maine  
7 vote on secession, and the inhabitants voted in July 1819 to  
8 secede from Massachusetts; and

9 WHEREAS, A constitutional convention was held in Portland  
10 in October 1819 and the delegates adopted a constitution which  
11 was approved at town meetings held on December 6, 1819; and

12 WHEREAS, Congress passed a bill admitting Maine into the  
13 Union as a separate state and President Monroe signed that bill  
14 into law on March 3, 1820 and Maine became a state on March 15,  
15 1820; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
18 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly agrees to  
19 the separation of Cook County and the other 101 counties into 2  
20 separate states; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the General Assembly authorizes a  
2 referendum to be held to confirm the desire of the voters of  
3 Illinois to separate Cook County and the rest of Illinois into  
4 2 separate states; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That following the adoption of the referendum,  
6 the General Assembly urges Congress to pass a bill that  
7 consents to the division of Cook County and the other 101  
8 counties of Illinois into 2 separate states and urges the  
9 President to sign such bill into law.