

**UPDATED AS OF 1/28/2010**

Home Rule Message No.1 -2010  
Introduced by Legislator Romaine

Laid on Table 2/2/2010

**HOME RULE MESSAGE REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO ENACT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A BI-COUNTY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE STATE OF LONG ISLAND (SENATE BILL NO. S.426-A AND ASSEMBLY BILL NO. A.1189-A)**

**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**, while Long Island receives billions of dollars in direct local aid, tuition assistance, highway aid, pension payments, lottery money, MTA subsidies and Medicaid payment from the State, a 2004 report prepared by Stony Brook University Center for Regional Policy Studies and Department of History and updated in 2008 by Dowling College's Long Island Economic and Social Policy Institute found that there was an approximate \$3 billion inequity between what Long Island sent to Albany (\$8.124 billion) and what was returned to the taxpayers of Suffolk and Nassau counties (\$5.2 billion); and

**WHEREAS**, if this inequitable tax distribution was remedied, the average Long Island family of four would realize approximately \$4,000 per year in tax savings; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest inequity imposed upon Suffolk County by the State of New York is a payroll tax designed to bail out the MTA; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a growing demand for Suffolk and Nassau counties to consolidate into one government to be known as the Commonwealth of Long Island or 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 3 million residents, which is larger than the combined populations of the states of Wyoming, North Dakota, Vermont and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility of establishing Nassau and Suffolk Counties as a separate state should be explored in conjunction with a review of the policies and practices which allow for the current inequitable tax distribution; now, therefore, be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that this Legislature hereby supports Senate Bill No. S.426-A and Assembly Bill No. A.1189-A to establish a bi-county commission in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk to study the feasibility of establishing the State of Long Island and authorizes a non-binding ballot referendum for Nassau and Suffolk Counties in November, 2010; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of this Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor David A. Paterson; to the Majority Leader of the New York

State Senate Malcolm Smith; to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly Sheldon Silver; 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: