

INTRO 3-13

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**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, HOGUES, LOUGHRAN & McCracken**

**RE: Calling for an Independent, Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission in NYS**

WHEREAS, the redistricting process in New York State has a tarnished national reputation, given its long history of redrawing state and congressional legislative district boundaries in such a way as to protect the re-election interests of incumbent office holders; and

WHEREAS, this practice is known as gerrymandering, and has been soundly criticized by good government groups such as the League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, the creative redrawing of legislative district lines to reach into areas of voter affiliation strength for incumbents while discarding communities with a preponderance of voters from the opposing political party does not serve the public well; and

WHEREAS, a result of this redrawing is that communities that share a geographic commonality/identity or racial/ethnic concentrations are often cut in half and divided between two districts, diluting the voices of those geographic interests and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey its support of an independent, non-partisan commission composed of New York State citizens to propose new legislative districts that put the interests of the public ahead of the political interests of incumbent office holders; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.