

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 855

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The elected Members of the House of Representatives, as distinguished from those from the party-list, represent a definite political subdivision, the Congressional District.

Unlike other government officials whose mandates clearly pertain to particular institutional branches, e.g. judges and justices in the judiciary and the President and his/her Cabinet in the executive department, the Congressman assumes multifarious roles.

The Congressional Representative is a local leader representing the interests of his constituents in the halls of Congress and before departments and agencies of the government. He is also a national stakeholder in that, in performing his duties, he is not limited to promoting only local concerns but also issues and causes that affect other localities or the entire country as well.

He is a legislator, as it is his principal duty to participate in the enactment of laws. But he is likewise involved in providing for the basic needs of his district in the form of projects, be it roads, bridges, schools, electric power, water and sanitation, clearly the tasks of a local executive.

With all these concerns on his burden, it is not surprising that the Congressman is, perhaps, the most visited public official, especially when he is in his district.

Officially, he holds office in the House of Representatives complex in urban Metro Manila. In the district, where his accessibility to his constituents is much needed, his office may be his house or a rented space.

Governors have capitols. Mayors have city or town halls. Even Barangay Captains have Barangay halls. The congressman has none.

This bill aims to give permanence and dignity to the office of the House Member by establishing a District Office in all the political districts in the country.

The measure presents the following advantages, among others: (1) the congressional district office will be fixed and permanent; (2) it will save expenses for the lease or rental of office spaces; (3) it will provide constituents easier access to their Congressman; (4) it will provide the Congressman and his constituents a venue for meetings and interactions.

Based on the premises mentioned, the early passage of this bill is respectfully enjoined.

AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICE IN EVERY POLITICAL DISTRICT IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in join session assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established in every political district in the Philippines a Congressional District Office.

SECTION 2. The site of the Congressional District shall be identified by the incumbent Member of the House of Representatives after consultation with the mayors of the local governments in the District.

SECTION 3. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.