

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1672



Introduced by Rep. Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

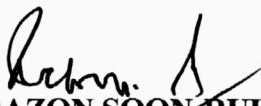
Section 5, Paragraph 3, Article VI of the Constitution provides that each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand shall have at least one representative.

The City of Mandaue was officially declared by the Department of the Interior and Local Government to have attained the status of a highly urbanized city on February 15, 1991. Its income, population and territory are sufficient to meet the constitutional requirements to qualify as a separate congressional district.

Being a congressional district separate and distinct from the present sixth district would greatly benefit the city of Mandaue and its residents. More resources shall be devoted to meet the needs of the city and enhance its march towards progress and development. A resolution to this effect was unanimously approved by the City Council of Mandaue City on September 18, 2001.

However, separating the city of Mandaue from the existing sixth district would pose some serious constitutional questions as it would isolate Consolacion from the rest of the sixth district - Lapu-lapu City and the municipality of Cordova. This would violate the constitutional requirement that each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory and there are no valid justifications for an exemption to this rule. It is worthy to note that Consolacion used to be a part of Mandaue City and it is not practicable for it to be lumped together with Lapu-lapu and Cordova, with which it shares neither historical nor geographical ties. This can be assailed as a case of gerrymandering.

In view of these premises, this bill seeks to divide the Sixth District, Province of Cebu, into two legislative districts: The Sixth District comprising Mandaue City and the municipality of Consolacion and the Seventh District comprising Lapu-lapu City and the municipality of Cordova.


NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.

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AN ACT DIVIDING THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO TWO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIXTH DISTRICT— COMPRISING MANDAUE CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONSOLACION AND THE SEVENTH DISTRICT — COMPRISING LAPU-LAPU CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The City of Mandaue and the Municipality of Consolacion, Province of Cebu, are hereby constituted into a separate legislative district, to be known as the Sixth District, Province of Cebu. PROVIDED, that the voters of the legislative district can still vote for and be voted upon as provincial elective officials of the Province of Cebu.

SECTION 2. The City of Lapu-lapu and the Municipality of Cordova, Province of Cebu, are likewise constituted into a separate legislative district, to be known as the Seventh District, Province of Cebu. PROVIDED, that the voters of the legislative district can still vote for and be voted upon as provincial elective officials of the Province of Cebu.

SECTION 3. The respective representatives of the two districts shall be elected in the national elections immediately succeeding the passage of this Act.

SECTION 4. To carry out the provisions of this Act, a necessary sum shall be appropriated from the National Treasury and thereafter, the same amount shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.