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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1685

Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Mandaue has been officially characterized as an urbanized city by the Department of Interior and Local Government on February 15, 1991. As of May 1, 2000, the city's population has grown to more than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000).

The growth of the city in recent years has brought a lot of opportunities as well as difficulties. Its population has tremendously ballooned and its social, political and economic activities greatly increased. With these developments, the administration of justice in the city has been greatly hampered especially by the lack of courts that could efficiently handle the growing number of cases.

At present, there are only three (3) Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MCTCs) and three Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) serving not only Mandaue City but also the neighboring municipalities of Consolacion, Liloan and Compostela which numbers are relatively insufficient and disproportionate to the population, the social, political and economic activities and the number of legal cases in the area.

Unless this deficiency is remedied, the administration of justice in the city and the neighboring municipalities will be characterized by unnecessary delays in the disposition of cases. Furthermore, the presiding judges and their staff will continue to be overburdened with great loads of cases which certainly hampers the performance of their duties and the quality of decisions they would render which are detrimental to the over-all image of the judiciary and the administration of justice in general.

The Mandaue City Lawyers Association, Inc. (MANLAW), which counts among its members judges, prosecutors, public attorneys and practicing lawyers, has been concerned with this predicament and has passed a resolution urging this representation to take the necessary measures to correct this inadequacy, preserve the sanctity of the judicial system and the people's trust and confidence in the rule of law.

The Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court of the Philippines believes that the ideal caseload of a court to function efficiently is 150 cases or below. But based on a three-month period from April to June 2002, the three RTC branches in Mandaue City received approximately 40 cases each per month bringing their average caseload to 661 per month per branch. As to the three (3) MTCC branches, each branch received 43 new cases a month resulting to an average caseload of 649 cases per month for each branch.

Based on the above statistics, at least five additional branches each for the RTC and MTCC are needed in Mandaue City. With eight RTC and eight MTCC branches, each RTC branch would be receiving an average of 15 new cases per month and an average caseload of approximately 248 cases per month and 16 new cases per month and a caseload of 243 per month for each MTCC branch.

With these glaring statistics and the efficient administration of justice a paramount consideration, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly prayed for and recommended.

NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.
6th District, Cebu

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AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN MANDAUE CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Creation.* – In addition to the existing municipal and regional trial courts in Mandue City, there are hereby created five (5) municipal and five (5) regional trial court branches.

SECTION 2. *Jurisdiction.* – The five (5) municipal trial courts and five (5) regional trial courts herein created shall have territorial jurisdiction over the city of Mandaue and the municipalities of Consolacion, Liloan and Compostela, all in the Province of Cebu.

SECTION 3. *Assignment of Cases.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act and subject to the guidelines to be issued by the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines to implement the provisions of this Act, the existing Regional Trial Court Branches 28, 55 and 56 in Mandaue City shall assign equally such number of pending and active cases as the Supreme Court may determine to the five regional trial court branches herein created. The existing Municipal Trial Courts in Cities Branches 1, 2 and 3 also in Mandaue City shall likewise assign equally such number of pending and active cases as the Supreme Court may determine to the five (5) municipal trial court branches herein created.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The necessary amount for the creation of the courts herein mandated shall be charged against the appropriations of the Supreme Court for the year immediately succeeding the passage of this Act. Thereafter, a sufficient sum for their maintenance shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the Supreme Court.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – The Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval subject to publication requirements.

Approved.