

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3709



Introduced by Rep. **Anthony C. Miranda**, Rep. **Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo**, Rep. **Rodolfo T. Albano III**, Rep. **Faustino G. Dy**, Rep. **Edwin C. Uy**, Rep. **Roilo S. Golez**, Rep. **Simeon A. Datumanong**, Rep. **Salacnib F. Bateria**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend certain sections of RA 7720 entitled "An act converting the Municipality of Santiago into an Independent Component City to be known as the City of Santiago" to correct perceived flaws.

Based on the experience for the past several years showed that being an independent component city, the following observations were reflected by its residents to wit:

1. *Decisions made by the City Council and/or the City Mayor is appealable only to the Office of the President. Making appeal is costly and time consuming considering the distance and the many concerns of the Office of the President.*
2. *Being an independent entity makes the City a virtual "island" in the provincial milieu.*
3. *If Santiago City is returned to its original existence being a part of the Province of Isabela, it is expected to enhance check and balance since under the revised charter, the province can review the decisions and or actions made by the City Mayor and or the City Council.*
4. *Synergy with its neighboring Local Government Units were noticeably reduced, hence, holistic program becomes inadequate thereby depletes the consolidated use of each towns' respective potentials that are essential to induce better economic climate.*
5. *Economic & political stability were found to have been weakened losing its attraction to both foreign and local investors that cause the number of unemployed individuals in the City to swell.*
6. *The residents of Santiago City were deprived of their basic right to vote and be voted upon to any elective provincial position.*

Same House Bill has already been approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate (RA 8528), but the Supreme Court rendered it null and void due to the absence of a plebiscite. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought and the support of our colleagues is respectfully requested.

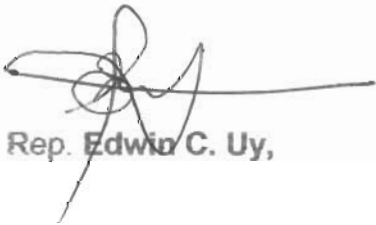


Rep. Anthony C. Miranda



Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III

Rep. Faustino G. Dy III



Rep. Edwin C. Uy,



Rep. Salacnib F. Bateria



Rep. Roilo S. Golez,



Rep. Simeon A. Datumanong,



Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal-Arroyo

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon city Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3709

Introduced by Rep. **Anthony C. Miranda**, Rep. **Juan Miguel Macapagal-Arroyo**, Rep. **Rodolfo T. Albano III**, Rep. **Faustino G. Dy**, Rep. **Edwin C. Uy**, Rep. **Roilo S. Golez**, Rep. **Simeon A. Datumanong**, Rep. **Salacnib F. Bateria**

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RA 7720 – AN ACT CONVERTING THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SANTIAGO INTO AN INDEPENDENT COMPONENT CITY TO BE
KNOWN AS THE CITY OF SANTIAGO.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of R.A. 7720 is hereby amended by deleting the words "an independent" thereon so that said Section 2 will read as follows:

Section 2. The City of Santiago – The Municipality of Santiago shall be converted into a component city to be known as the City of Santiago, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise of the present territory of the Municipality of Santiago, Isabela. The territorial jurisdiction of the City shall be within the present metes and bounds of the Municipality of Santiago.

SECTION 2. Article VII Section 24 Paragraph B Number 4 is hereby amended by inserting the words "Office of the City Business Development Officer" after the words "City Cooperative Officer," so that it will now read as follows:

(4) General Services Department – to be composed of the Office of the City General Services, Office of the City Civil Registrar, Office of the City Administrator, Office of the City Social Welfare and Development Officer, Office of the City Information Officer, Office of the City Population Officer, Office of the City Cooperatives Officer, Office of the City Business Development Officer, and the Office of the Secretary to the Sanggunian;

SECTION 3. Section 46 is hereby inserted under Article VIII and the numbers of the succeeding sections are hereby modified accordingly to wit:

Section 46. The City Business Development Officer – (a) The City Business Development Officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Santiago, of good moral character, a holder of college degree preferably in business administration with special training in business development or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have experience in

business development and management for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The City Business Development Officer shall be appointed by the City Mayor and shall be subsequently confirmed by the *sangguniang panlungsod* and shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The City Business Development Officer shall take charge of the Office for the Development of Businesses and shall:

- (1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the *sangguniang panlungsod* and provide technical assistance and support to the City Mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of facilities through the development of businesses, and provide access to such services and facilities;
- (2) Establish national and international business linkages and provide a one stop Business center that shall cater to the immediate needs of the investors such as but not limited to information and documentation assistance;
- (3) Prepare business feasibility studies and offer viable investment portfolio to foreign and local investors;
- (4) Harmonize foreign and local businessmen and assure mutually beneficial coexistence;
- (5) Establish Government Owned and Controlled Corporations and public enterprises that the City may organize and operate to generate revenues, provide employment, deliver various goods and services and improve the local business climate;
- (6) Recommend to the *sanggunian panlungsod* and advise the City Mayor on all other matters concerning business development and viability enhancement which will improve the fiscal welfare of the residents; and
- (7) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SECTION 4. The City Schools Division Office – (a) The City Schools Division Office is hereby created in the City of Santiago with adequate personnel to be appointed by the officer of the Department of Education duly authorized by law subject to the standards, rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the Department of Education;

(b) The City of Santiago shall appropriate funds in its annual budget immediately succeeding the approval of this Act to provide the land or site for the Office of the City Schools Division;

(c) The City Schools Division Superintendent shall qualify and be appointed by the duly authorized officer of the Department of Education and shall head the Santiago City Schools Division Office;

(d) The City Schools Division Office shall ensure quality education is provided to the residents of the City of Santiago and shall enforce policies, guidelines, rules and regulations of the Department of Education;

(e) The Department of Education shall provide the necessary funds for the operation and expansion of the educational services of the City Schools Division Office.

SECTION 5. The City Trial Courts – (a) There shall be established in the City of Santiago at least four (4) City Trial Courts adequately equipped with the basic facilities necessary to carry out its judicial function;

(b) The City of Santiago shall appropriate funds in its annual budget immediately succeeding the approval of this Act to provide the land or site and the corresponding structures in consonance with the standard design prescribed by the Department of Justice;

(c) Qualified judges shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines to head these courts and shall preside over the hearing of cases under its jurisdiction;

(d) The Department of Justice shall provide adequate personnel to these City Trial Courts that will render judicial services.

SECTION 6. The City Public Computerized Library & Museum – (a) It is hereby created a City Public Computerized Library that will provide conducive learning venue;

(b) The City of Santiago shall appropriate in its annual fund immediately succeeding the approval of this Act the required funds to construct the City Public Computerized Library & Museum;

(c) The Officer authorized by the Philippine National Library shall appoint a Librarian that will manage the City Public Library and Museum and shall provide the funds for his remuneration;

(d) The Philippine National Library, Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine National Museum shall provide books, computers, equipment, materials, technology and assistance to the City Public Computerized Library & Museum;

(e) The Philippine National Library shall provide adequate personnel to the City Public Computerized Library & Museum;

(f) The City of Santiago shall provide support personnel to assist the Librarian and staffs of the City Public Computerized Library & Museum.

SECTION 7. SECTION 52 of R.A. 7720 is hereby amended by deleting the entire section and in its stead substitute the following:

SECTION 52. Election of Provincial Governor, Vice-Governor, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members, and any elective provincial position for the Province of Isabela – The qualified voters of the City of Santiago shall be allowed to vote and be voted upon in an election of the Provincial Governor, Vice-Governor, Sangguniang Panlalawigan members and other elective provincial positions of the Province of Isabela.

SECTION 8. Representative to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan – There shall be one member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan representing the City of Santiago to be voted upon by the qualified voters of the congressional district where the City of Santiago belong in the next immediate regular elections.

SECTION 9. Plebiscite - These amendments shall take effect upon the ratification of this Act by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters of the City of Santiago in a plebiscite, which shall be held for the purpose within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act. The Commission on Elections shall finance, conduct and supervise such plebiscite.

SECTION 10. Separability and Repealing clause – all existing laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly and if any provisions of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 11. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,
