

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3975



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Introduced by CONG. J.R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

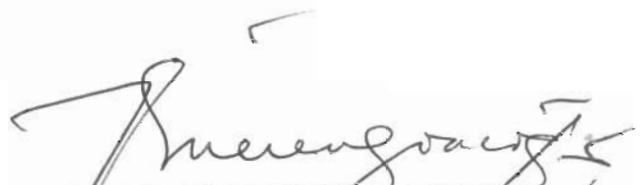
Bukidnon is a landlocked province of Northern Mindanao. It occupies an extensive plateau in the heart of Mindanao bounded on the north by Misamis Oriental, on the east by the Agusan provinces, on the west by Lanao and Cotabato provinces and on the south by Davao province. The Province of Bukidnon was created pursuant to the Administrative Code of 1917. Its total land area of 8,293 square kilometers is divided into twenty (20) municipalities and two (2) cities. The Province's total income as of 2003 amounts to NINE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN (P939,187,000.00) annually. Its population was recorded at 1,060,265 as of 2000.

The province of Bukidnon has retained its territorial integrity since its founding in 1901. Yet its vast land area, burgeoning population and increasingly complex administrative and governance requirements, necessitate its subdivision into two provinces.

This Act intends to divide the province of Bukidnon into two provinces to be known as the Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental. The city of Valencia, the municipalities of Manolo Fortich, Libona, Baungon, Talakag, Pangantucan, Kalilangan, Maramag, Don Carlos, Danggagan, Kadingilan will cover the proposed province of Bukidnon Occidental. This area has a population of 579,707, a total land area of 3,661 square kilometers and an annual gross income of P108,170,100.00. The city of Malaybalay, the municipalities of Malitbog, Impasug-ong, Sumilao, Lantapan, Cabanglasan, San Fernando, Quezon, Kitao-ao, Kibawe, Damulog, will cover the proposed province of Bukidnon Oriental. This area has a population of 480,558, a total land area of 4,632.62 square kilometers and an annual gross income of P166,660,200.00. Thus the division of the province of Bukidnon to be known as the Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental complies with the requirements of the Local Government Code of 1991.

The division of the Province of Bukidnon into two territorial jurisdictions will spur economic growth and development in both provinces. Moreover, the administrative capacity of each local government unit will increase and better address the delivery of basic social services and the pressing demands of local economies and communities.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
CONG. J.R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA  
Representative  
First District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT

DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO TWO PROVINCES TO BE KNOWN AS  
BUKIDNON OCCIDENTAL AND BUKIDNON ORIENTAL

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

Section 1. There is hereby created two new provinces of Bukidnon to be known as the Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental. The city of Valencia, the municipalities of Manolo Fortich, Libona, Baungon, Talakag, Pangantucan, Kalilangan, Maramag, Don Carlos, Danggagan, Kadingilan will cover the proposed province of Bukidnon Occidental. The city of Malaybalay, the municipalities of Malitbog, Impasug-ong, Sumilao, Lantapan, Cabanglasan, San Fernando, Quezon, Kitao-tao, Kibawe, Damulog, will cover the proposed province of Bukidnon Oriental.

Section 2. The capital of the Province of Bukidnon Occidental shall be the City of Valencia, and for the Province of Bukidnon Oriental, the capital will be the City of Malaybalay.

Section 3. Except as otherwise herein provided, all provisions of law now or hereafter applicable to regularly organized provinces shall be applicable to both provinces of Bukidnon.

Section 4. The division of the province of Bukidnon into two provinces shall become effective upon approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite called for the purpose to be held within ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) days from the approval of this Act or simultaneously with an election, whether general, regular or special, whichever shall come first, to be conducted by the Commission on Elections in the local units directly affected.

Section 5. The amount necessary for the holding of the plebiscite as provided in the preceding section shall be charged to the General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. The elected provincial officials of the present Province of Bukidnon in the May 11, 2004 elections for local officials shall continue to govern the Province of Bukidnon. The incumbent Representatives from the present Province of Bukidnon shall until the expiration of their respective terms of office, continue to represent the district from which they were elected.

Section 7. The first provincial governor and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the two provinces of Bukidnon shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines and shall hold office until their successor shall have been elected and qualified in the next local elections immediately following the approval of this Act.

Section 8. All qualified appointive officials and employees in the career service of the province shall continue in office in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations.

All aforesaid officials and employees shall have the option to choose the province they want to serve regardless of their residence.

Section 9. Upon the effectivity of this Act, the obligations, funds, assets and other properties of the present Province of Bukidnon shall be divided equally between the Province of Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Commission on Audit.

Section 10. During the first year of the implementation of this Act, the internal revenue allotment allocated to Bukidnon pursuant to Section 285 of the Local Government Code shall be equitably divided between Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be set by the Department of Budget and Management for the purpose in consultation with an incumbent representative of both Bukidnon provinces. Thereafter, the province of Bukidnon Occidental and Bukidnon Oriental shall each be entitled to an internal revenue allotment allocation as authorized under the said Local Government Code.

Section 11. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.