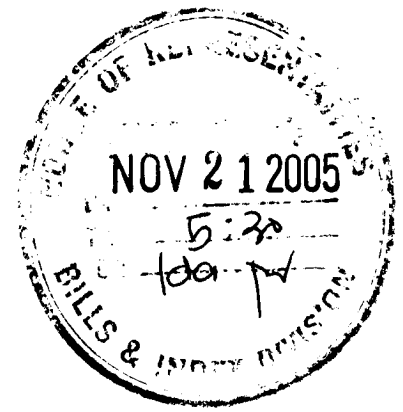


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4923



Introduced by Honorable Arthur D. Defensor

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the desire of the judges to act with dispatch in the disposition of cases assigned to their respective salas, the growth in population and the consequent rise in the number of cases have increased the caseloads of the Regional Trial Courts in the Province of Iloilo. The courts can hardly cope with and expeditiously dispose of the many cases filed. A number of meritorious cases cannot be given ample time by the courts considering the clogged condition of court dockets. The delay in the disposition of cases is a cause of injustice under the familiar aphorism that "justice delayed is justice denied."

It is imperative that there be efficiency in the disposition of cases and that the litigants, especially those of modest means can vindicate their rights in an expeditious and inexpensive manner. It is a duty of government to provide speedy trial and judgment especially in the remote areas where the people have no ready access to courts for the prompt resolution of cases arising from the legal complexities of a rapidly evolving society.

This bill seeks to establish a Regional Trial Court branch in Iloilo stationed in the Municipality of Janiway. This would ease up the clogged dockets, at the same time, alleviate the plight of a large number of people in the municipalities of Pototan, Mina, Cabatuan, Ma-asin, Badiangan, Lambunao, Calinog and Bingawan all in the third congressional district, who have to travel to Iloilo City and the Municipality of Dumangas in the fourth congressional district in order to seek justice and secure redress of their grievances.

Indeed, to the paraphrase Canon 2 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics, the courts exist to promote justice, and aid in securing the contentment and happiness of the people. The courts should be made useful to litigants and to the community as the courts are made precisely for the litigants.


ARTHUR D. DEFENSOR

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

**Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 4923

Introduced by the Honorable Arthur D. Defensor

**AN ACT
CREATING ONE ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE
PROVINCE OF ILOILO WITH STATION AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF
JANIUAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G)
OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Section 14, paragraph (g) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“(g) SEVENTY [Sixty-nine] Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial Region. There shall be:

“Nine branches with seats thereat for the Province of Aklan, with seats at Kalibo;

“Five branches with seats thereat for the Province of Antique, with seats at San Jose, Culasi, and Bugasong;

“Eight branches with seats thereat for the Province of Capiz and City of Roxas, with seats at Roxas City and Mambusao;

“TWENTY-THREE [Twenty-two] branches with seats thereat for the Province of Iloilo, the Sub-province of

Guimaras, and the City of Iloilo, with seats at Iloilo City, JANIUAY, Barotac Viejo, Guimbal and Dumangas; and

“Twenty-five branches with seats thereat for the Province of Negros Occidental and the Cities of Bacolod, Bago, Cadiz, La Carlota, San Carlos and Silay, with seats at Silay City, Bacolod City, Himamaylan, San Carlos City, Cadiz City, Kabankalan, Bago City, La Carlota City, and Sipalay.”

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in its program the operationalization of the additional Regional Trial Court of Janiuay, Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,