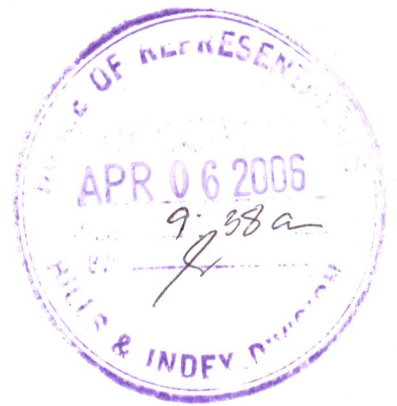


*Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila*

*Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session*



5429

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by the Honorable Simeon A. Datumanong

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The perennial problem of numerous vacancies in the first and second level courts in different city and provincial stations has been a scourge to the orderly and efficient administration of justice. This problem is compounded by the lack of judges who will be tasked to temporarily take over the case loads in these vacant courts.

To remedy the situation, this Bill intends to create judges-at-large for first-level and second-level courts who will not be assigned to any single station. These judges may be temporarily assigned to vacant courts until a permanent judge is appointed.

From the foregoing consideration, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


SIMEON A. DATUMANONG
Representative
2nd District, Maguindanao

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5429

Introduced by the Honorable Simeon A. Datumanong

**"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED BY R.A. 7154, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

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

Section 1. Section 17 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended by Republic Act No. 7154, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

*"SEC. 17. Appointment and assignment of Regional Trial Judges;
Establishment of Judges-at-Large. -*

x x x

x x x

In addition to the Judges mentioned in Sections 14, 27, 29 and 30 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, there shall also be created: (a) twenty (20) positions of judges-at-large for the first level courts; and, (b) twenty (20) positions of judges-at-large for second level courts. Judges appointed to these positions shall not be designated permanently to any station of a judicial region but shall render duty in such province, city or municipality as may from time to time be

directed by the Supreme Court. These judges-at-large shall hold office at the Office of the Court Administrator, unless assigned to another province, city or municipality to assist in deciding cases, to try and decide specified cases or to handle other court business or court management matters."

Section 2. The amount necessary for the establishment, operation and maintenance of judges-at-large shall be taken from the annual appropriations of the Supreme Court.

Section 3. All laws, decrees, orders and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,