

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 921

Introduced by Honorable Czarina D. Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The elected Members of the House of Representatives as distinguished from those from the party-list, represent a definite political subdivision, the Congressional District.

Unlike other government officials whose mandates clearly pertain to particular institutional branches, e.g. judges and justices in the judiciary and the President and his/her Cabinet in the executive department, the Congressman assumes multifarious roles.

The Congressional Representative is a local leader representing the interests of his/her constituents in the halls of Congress and before departments and agencies of the government. He/She is also a national stakeholder in that, in performing his/her duties, he/she is not limited to promoting only local concerns but also issues and causes that affect other localities or the entire country as well.

He/She is a legislator, as it is his/her principal duty to participate in the enactment of laws. But he/she is likewise, involved in providing for the basic needs of his/her district in the form of projects be it roads, bridges, schools, electric power, water and sanitation, clearly the tasks of a local executive.

With all these concerns on his/her burden, it is not surprising that the Congressman/Congresswoman is perhaps, the most visited public official, especially when he/she is in his/her district.

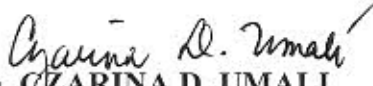
Officially, he/she holds office in the House of Representatives complex in urban Metro Manila. In the district, where his/her accessibility to his/her constituents is much needed, his/her office may be his/her house or a rented space.

Governors have capitols. Mayors have city or town halls. Even Barangay Captains have barangay halls. The Congressman/Congresswoman has none.

This bill aims to give permanence and dignity to the office of the House Member by establishing a District Office in all the political districts in the country.

The measure presents the following advantages among others (1) the congressional district office will be fixed and permanent; (2) it will save expenses for the lease or rental of office spaces; (3) it will provide constituents easier access to their Congressman/Congresswoman; (4) it will provide the Congressman/Congresswoman and his/her constituents a venue for meetings and interactions.

Based on the premises mentioned, the early passage of this bill is respectfully enjoined.


Hon. ZARINA D. UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OFFICE IN EVERY POLITICAL DISTRICT IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established in every political district in the Philippines a Congressional District Office.

SECTION 2. The site of the Congressional District shall be identified by the incumbent Members of the House of Representatives after consultation with the mayors of the local governments in the District.

SECTION 3. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issued rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.