

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1115

Introduced by HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recognizing the pressing need of providing for an expeditious and competent administration of justice, no less than Section 16 Article 3 of our Constitution mandates that "all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies." Unfortunately, however, this does not hold true in most parts of our country including the Eighth Judicial Region where the city of Tacloban is.

In Tacloban, the large number of pending undecided cases may be explained by the rapid population growth and increase in industrial and commercial activities in the city because of its conversion into a highly urbanized city on December 17, 2008. This development has drastically changed the socio-economic landscape of the city and effected an alarming upsurge in criminal and civil cases being filed in the existing branches of the Regional Trial Courts in Cities (RTC).

The situation where more cases are raffled to each branch compared to the number of cases that each judge can humanely dispose creates demoralization and apathy to the judge.

Hence, the creation of additional branches of the regional trial courts to be stationed in Tacloban City will considerably reduce the backlog of unattended and undisposed cases.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
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AN ACT
CREATING ADDITIONAL TWO (2) BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT (RTC) IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS
AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 14, paragraph (i) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129,
otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 as amended, is
hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. *Regional Trial Courts.*

X X X

(i) [Thirty-three] THIRTY-FIVE Regional Trial Judges shall be
commissioned for the Eighth Judicial Region. There shall be:

X X X

[Thirteen] FIFTEEN branches (Branches VI to XVIII) for the province of Leyte, the sub-province of Biliran, and the cities of Ormoc and Tacloban, Branches VI and IX with seats at Tacloban City, Branch X at Abuyog, Branch XI at Calubian, Branch XII at Ormoc City, Branch XIII at Carigara, Branch XIV at Baybay, Branch XV at Burauen, Branch XVI at Naval, Branch XVII at Palompon, and Branch XVIII at Hilongos;

x x x

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign two additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in Tacloban City, Province of Leyte in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Province of Leyte, to be stationed in the City of Tacloban, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,