

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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1174

Introduced by Hon. Niel "Junjun" C. Tupas, Jr.
Fifth (5th) District, Iloilo

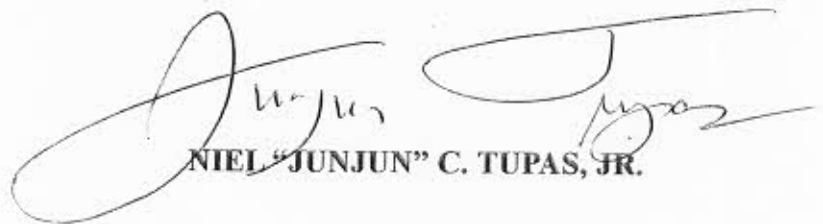
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create two (2) additional Regional Trial Court (RTC) branches in the Province of Iloilo with seats at the Municipality of Barotac Viejo.

RTC Branch 66 located in Barotac Viejo, Iloilo is a single sala court covering a territorial jurisdiction composed of thirteen (13) towns in Northern Iloilo. Based on the comments and recommendations of the Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court dated 22 May 2006, RTC Branch 66 received 535 and 594 cases in 2004 and 2005, respectively. As of December 2005, the said court had 1,475 pending cases which is way beyond the ideal case load of 200-250 cases for one RTC. The records of the Office of the Court Administrator show that the Presiding Judge in the said court had difficulty disposing cases due to the heavy case load. This prompted the Office of the Court Administrator to designate as assisting judge in RTC Branch 66 to help in the disposition of cases. It has also recommended the creation of an additional RTC in Barotac Viejo.

The creation of an additional RTC in Barotac Viejo is an ideal way of easing the case load of RTC Branch 66 and of ensuring the speedy disposition of cases in Northern Iloilo. The Municipality of Barotac Viejo has a strategic location and is easily accessible to litigants who may be coming from the 12 other towns under its jurisdiction because the road network connects to Barotac Viejo.

For the foregoing reasons and to improve the justice system in our country, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


NIEL "JUNJUN" C. TUPAS, JR.

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AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN
THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO WITH SEATS AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF
BAROTAC VIEJO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14,
PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 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 Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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

"SEC. 14. Regional Trial Courts.-

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

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[Twenty-two] **TWENTY-FOUR** branches with seats thereat for the Province of Iloilo, the Sub-province of Guimaras, and the City of Iloilo, with seats at Iloilo City, Barotac Viejo, Guimbal and Dumangas.

XXX

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the additional Regional Trial Court branches at the Municipality of Barotac Viejo.

SECTION 3. The Supreme Court shall cause the construction of the office of the additional Regional Trial Court branches in Barotac Viejo and the assignment of the Presiding Judge thereat.

SECTION 4. 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 Regional Trial Court branches in the Province of Iloilo with seat at the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, the funding for which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,