

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 1906

INTRODUCED BY HON. YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO
Second District, Province of Misamis Oriental

EXPLANATORY NOTE

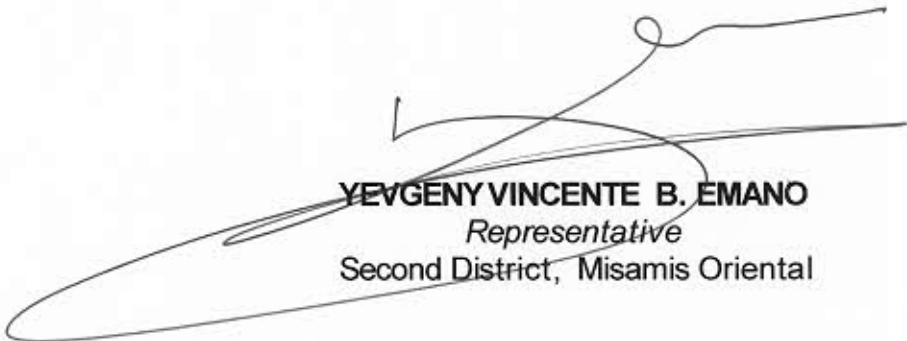
This bill seeks to establish one branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) with a seat in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Province of Misamis Oriental, with a geographical jurisdiction that would include the eight (8) municipalities of Tagoloan, Villanueva, Jasaan, Claveria, Balingasag, Lagonglong, Salay and Binuangan, all in Misamis Oriental. Its purpose is to provide near to the people and businesses in these municipalities a more convenient but less expensive access to the court and its services.

There are at present nineteen (19) RTC branches in Misamis Oriental and the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Gingoog. Of this total, fourteen (14) RTC Branches have seats in Cagayan de Oro City, two (2) in Gingoog City, two (2) in Medina, and one (1) in Initao. These 14 RTC Branches in Cagayan de Oro City have original jurisdiction over the RTC cases coming from Cagayan de Oro City, the eight (8) municipalities from Tagoloan up to Binuangan in the eastern side, and Municipality of Opol and City of El Salvador, in the western side of the province. These 14 RTC Branches in Cagayan de Oro also handle the appeals of cases decided by the five branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cagayan de Oro City, one branch of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court from Tagoloan up to Binuangan. As a consequence, the jurisdiction over the RTC cases from these eight (8) municipalities will then be transferred to the new RTC Branch in Tagoloan.

Adding one branch by increasing the number from 19 to 20 RTC Branches in Misamis Oriental with seat in Tagoloan is beneficial and necessary for the following reasons: First, it will decrease the travel time and expenses of the litigants, because they will not have to go to Cagayan de Oro City since their cases will be tried in Tagoloan. Second, it will decrease the case loads of the RTC Branches in Cagayan de Oro City and decongest the city traffic, because the cases coming from these eight municipalities will be transferred from the RTC Branch in Cagayan de Oro City to the new RTC Branch in Tagoloan. Third, there is a need to create one RTC Branch especially in the Municipality of Tagoloan because of the increase in the population in Tagoloan and its vicinity and due to increase in

businesses operating within the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate, like the Mindanao Container Port, Philippine Sinter Corporation and other big companies that are now operating or maybe established in the near future in the Municipality of Tagoloan and the Municipality of Villanueva. Fourth, the local government of Tagoloan has already provided a 1,000 – square meter lot that now houses the Hall of Justice occupied by the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Tagoloan-Villanueva, and this area can accommodate an additional building and parking space for the new RTC Branch.

In view of its necessity and the benefits that this bill can provide to our constituents, its speedy approval is earnestly requested.



YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO
Representative
Second District, Misamis Oriental

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AN ACT

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND THE CITIES OF CAGAYAN DE ORO AND GINGOOG FROM NINETEEN (19) BRANCHES TO TWENTY (20) BRANCHES BY CREATING A NEW BRANCH WITH SEAT AT TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SUBPARAGRAPHS 1 AND 6 OF SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7154 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

“(k) Forty-five Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the Tenth Judicial Region. There shall be:

“Seven branches with seats thereat for the Province of Agusan del Norte and City of Butuan, with seats at Butuan City and Cabadbaran;

“Two branches with seats thereat for the Province of Agusan del Sur, with seats at Prosperidad and Bayugan;

“Four branches with seats thereat for the Province of Bukidnon, with seats at Malaybalay, Don Carlos and Manolo Fortich;

“Seven branches with seats thereat for the Province of Misamis Occidental and the cities of Oroquieta, Ozamis and Tangub, with seats at Oroquieta City, Calamba, Ozamis City and Tangub City;

"Twenty branches with seats thereat for the Province of Misamis Oriental and the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Gingoog, with seats at Cagayan de Oro City, Medina, Gingoog City, Initao and Tagoloan;

"One branch for the Province of Camiguin, with seat at Mambajao; and

"Four branches with seats thereat for the Province of Surigao del Norte and the City of Surigao, with seats at Surigao City, Dapa and Dinagat Island."

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in their program the operationalization of the new Regional Trial Court Branch in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,