

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3342

Introduced by HON. SIGFRIDO R. TINGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The structure of every government makes the presence of a mechanism to settle disputes a must. Thus, Section 1, Article VII of the Constitution provides that “the judicial power shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such lower courts as may be established by law.” Then and now, our judicial system remains the core of every existing community.

Since the enactment of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 in 1980, the City of Taguig had only one (1) Metropolitan Trial Court to serve the judicial needs of its constituency. Moreover, it is already more than 25 years since the enactment of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 when the city was then just a small municipality in Metro Manila. Now, the small municipality has become a city known as the gateway of the south, fully developed and highly urbanized. The development however has caused an increase in the number of disputes to be resolved, including criminal and civil cases. Meanwhile, other legal matters awaiting judicial

determination have been pending and continue to rise, bringing about problems in matters of litigation.

Currently, the sole Metropolitan Trial Court in the City of Taguig handles approximately 1,200 cases. This number itself overwhelms one judge who reviews the cases and decides on them promptly and judiciously as mandated by the Constitution. However, the delay in dispensing justice is understandable given this situation.

The delay in the administration of justice consequently denies an accused the constitutional right to a speedy trial. To address these concerns, this bill creates four (4) Metropolitan Trial Courts for the City of Taguig to effectively and swiftly serve the needs of litigants whose lives halt to due to the attention needed in the trial of their cases.

Thus, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



SIGFRIDO R. TIÑA
Representative
2nd District, Taguig City

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AN ACT

CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT TAGUIG CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27, CHAPTER III 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. Section 27 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. 27. Metropolitan Trial Courts of the National Capital Region. – There shall be a Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Region, to be known as the Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila, which shall be composed of [ninety-seven (97)] ONE HUNDRED ONE (101) branches. There shall be:

X X X

[One branch (Branch LXXIV)] FOUR BRANCHES for Taguig City with seats thereat;

x x x

SECTION 2. 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 operation of three (3) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila to be stationed at Taguig City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,