

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3524

Introduced by: HON. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the creation of an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Province of Negros Occidental to be seated at the City of Sipalay.

At present there is only one Regional Trial Court, specifically Branch 61, located in the City of Kabankalan, which has jurisdiction over the 6th Legislative District of Negros Occidental. The latter district includes the cities of Kabankalan and Sipalay and the municipalities of Ilog, Candoni, Cauayan and Hinobaan of which has a population of 456,852 based on the 2007 Census.

With the huge volume of cases under Branch 61 of the Regional Trial Court in Kabankalan City, delays in the disposition of cases occur. The creation of the additional branch will reduce the court's voluminous dockets and will amplify the Constitutional mandate that all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative bodies.

The site of this additional Regional Trial Court is proposed to be situated in Sipalay City in order to efficiently serve litigants who reside far away from the present Regional Trial Court located in Kabankalan City.

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore imperative that an additional Regional Trial Court to be seated in Sipalay City be created and that the approval of this bill earnestly sought.


Rep. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3524

Introduced by: **HON. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ**

**AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL WITH A SEAT IN THE CITY OF SIPALAY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PARAGRAPH (G), SECTION 14 OF BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980.**

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

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

“(g) [Sixty-three] **Sixty-four** Regional Trial Court Judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial Region. There shall be:

x x x x x

[Twenty-four] **Twenty-five** branches ([Branches XL-LXIII] **Branches XL-LXIV**) for the province of Negros Occidental xxxxx with seat at xxxxx and **Branch LXIV at Sipalay City.**

Xxxxxx”

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the additional Regional Trial Court branch in the City of Sipalay, Negros Occidental and shall issue 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 the court's program the operationalization of one additional Regional Trial Court for the Province of Negros Occidental, with a station at the City of Sipalay, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act shall be amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,