

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3770

Introduced by **Hon. GABRIEL LUIS R. QUISUMBING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article III, Section 16 provides: **"All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."**

As legal luminaries put it: **"Justice delayed is justice denied."**

Proper and prompt attention is urgently needed to address the deplorable condition of the Regional Trial Courts of Mandaue City, Province of Cebu which carries case loads way beyond their capacity.

Ordinary party-litigants, mostly coming from below average income class, suffer heavily due to the snail-paced conduct of the judicial process. A resetting or postponement of the hearing of their cases would mean that the litigants have to wait at least four (4) to six (6) months.

Because of the volume of cases, the wheels of justice indeed grind to a halt. It is an expensive process and sometimes, a vain effort, especially when some litigants predecease the outcome of their cases when appealed to the Court of Appeals and finally to the Supreme Court.

In recent years, with the boom in its economic activity and growth, the Province of Cebu including Mandaue City, Consolacion, Liloan and Compostela, have witnessed an increase in domestic migration.

The creation of additional courts is necessary to realize the Constitutional principle on accessibility and effective delivery of justice. Hence approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS IN MANDAUE CITY FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 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 of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Three (3) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Mandaue City, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Seventh Judicial Region.

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers for the newly created branches.

SECTION 3. Accordingly, Section 14(h) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as, "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, is hereby deemed repealed, modified and/or further amended.

SECTION 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include, as may be determined on a priority basis, in the Court's program the implementation of this Act. The funding therefore shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation,

Approved,

