

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1687



**Introduced by Representatives EVELINA G. ESCUDERO and
DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Prior to the enactment of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the Province of Sorsogon was already divided into two legislative districts. What was then the 1st District was composed of the municipalities of Barcelona, Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Bulusan, Irosin, Sta. Magdalena, Matnog and Bulan while the then-Second District included the capital town of Sorsogon, Pilar, Donsol, Castilla, Bacon, Casiguran, Magallanes and Juban.

Under the Ordinance appended to the 1987 Constitution, the 1st District of Sorsogon came to be called the 2nd District and what was then the 2nd District became the new 1st District. More significantly, the town of Juban was separated from its old legislative district and became part of the 2nd District. This could have been an oversight on the part of the framers of the 1987 Constitution.

Article VI, Sec. 5 (3) of the 1987 Constitution states that every "legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory". A cursory look at a map of the Province of Sorsogon will show that the town of Juban is adjacent to and in fact is sandwiched between the towns of Magallanes and Casiguran which both belong to the 1st District of Sorsogon. Thus, in accordance with the 1987 Constitution, Juban ought to have been included in the same district as the said towns. Further, the economy of Juban is closely tied to that of Magallanes and Casiguran.

This bill now seeks to restore the inclusion of the town of Juban to what is now the First District of Sorsogon. Not only will this be in accordance with the standards set forth by the 1987 Constitution but it will allow better synchronization of legislative projects for the three adjacent towns.

In view of this, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon


DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.
Representative
2nd District, Sorsogon

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1687

**Introduced by Representatives EVELINA G. ESCUDERO and
DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.**

AN ACT
REAPPORTIONING THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF
THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO INCLUDE THE MUNICIPALITY OF JUBAN IN
THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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

SECTION 1. The composition of the First and Second Legislative Districts of the Province of Sorsogon is hereby reapportioned and the Municipality of Juban shall henceforth form part of the First Legislative District of Sorsogon.

SEC. 2. The composition of the First and Second Legislative Districts shall be as follows:

- (a) First District – Sorsogon City, Donsol, Pilar, Castilla, Casiguran, Magallanes and Juban; and
- (b) Second District – Gubat, Barcelona, Prieto Diaz, Sta. Magdalena, Matnog, Bulan, Irosin, and Bulusan.

SEC. 3. The Commission on Elections shall formulate and issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause – All laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,