

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2491



INTRODUCED BY Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines may not be the most affluent of countries when it comes to resources and economic investments but, one Filipino can be proud of the fact that our nation's legislative body is very much prolific in submitting bills and approving laws for the greater benefit of the masses. However, such laws can only be so good to be applied and scrutinized if the judiciary is efficient enough to reestablish their full aspect especially in situations where the law is cited for certain trials in court. Consequently, once cases are filed where specific provisions are to be essentially referenced; it is quite a disservice to law when real-time impact upon the passing of judgment is delayed because of logistical judiciary inadequacies. Hence, the efficiency of judicial proceedings should be reevaluated with special consideration to the number of cases submitted and the number of Municipal Trial Courts in Cities.

As of the June this year, there are a total of 4,563 pending cases in all 7 Municipal Trial Courts in Cities branches in Bacolod City. At the beginning of the year, there were a total of 4,674 pending cases. In a span of 6 months, 578 cases were disposed. On the other hand, 467 cases were also added within the same duration. That leaves roughly less than 3% completion rate in case handling, not to mention the additional cases filed on a day-to-day basis. If such situation continues, there will obviously be more cases stocked in file than cases dismissed. Thus, the current scenario highly demands an increase in the number of court branches that will definitely help in the speedy dispensation of justice.

As such, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as
2 the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended is hereby further amended to
3 read as follows:

4

5 Section 29. *Municipal Trial Courts in Cities.* – In every city which does not
6 form part of a metropolitan area, there shall be a Municipal Trial Court with one
7 branch, except as hereunder provided:

8

9 “ X X X

10 “ X X X

11 “ X X X

12 “ X X X

13 “ X X X

14 “ X X X

15 “ X X X

16

1 " X X X

2 " X X X

3 " X X X

4 " X X X

5 " X X X

6 " X X X

7 " X X X

8 " X X X

9 **[Seven] TEN** branches for Bacolod City;

10 " X X X

11 " X X X

12 " X X X

13 " X X X

14 " X X X

15 " X X X

16 " X X X

17 " X X X

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21 " X X X

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23 " X X X

24 " X X X

25

26 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created
27 branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Sixth Judicial Region.

28

29 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
30 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's
31 program the operationalization of three (3) additional branches of Municipal Trial
32 Court in Cities to be stationed at the City of Bacolod, the funding of which shall be

1 included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the
2 operation of the Court(s) herein created shall be appropriated and released only
3 upon the actual organization of the Court(s) and the appointment of its personnel.

4

5 **SEC. 3.** All other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this
6 Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

7

8 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10

11 Approved,