

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



Sixteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4457**

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE BAI SANDRA SINSUAT A. SEMA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) shall have at least one representative in the House of Representatives. Cotabato City having a population of 271,786 per the 2010 census is one such city which until now has no separate representative in Congress. Although it has already exceeded the 250,000 margin, Cotabato City does not have its own representative and continues to be included in the first legislative district of Maguindanao along with the municipalities of Barira, Buldon, Datu Blah T. Sinsuat, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, Matanog, Northern Kabuntalan, Parang, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura, and Upi.

After the separation of Cotabato City from the legislative district of Maguindanao, the latter would still have the municipalities of Barira, Buldon, Datu Blah T. Sinsuat, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, Matanog, Northern Kabuntalan, Parang, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura, and Upi with a total population of 423,836.

To implement the mandate of the Constitution, immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


HON. BAI SANDRA SINSUAT A. SEMA
First District of Maguindanao & Cotabato City

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AN ACT SEPARATING COTABATO CITY FROM THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
OF THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF COTABATO CITY

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

SECTION 1. *Lone Legislative District.* – Cotabato City is hereby separated from
the First Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao to constitute the Lone
Legislative District of Cotabato City.

SEC. 2. *Incumbent Representative.* – The incumbent Representative of the First
Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao shall continue to represent the said
district until the new Representative of the Lone Legislative District of Cotabato City
shall have been elected and qualified in the next regular congressional elections.

SEC. 3. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Elections shall issue the
necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions 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,