

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 9421

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

**AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, THEREBY CREATING THE THIRD
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5, paragraph 3 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, “[e]ach legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory. Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative.”

Furthermore, paragraph 4 of the aforequoted provision adds that “[w]ithin three years following the return of every census, the Congress shall make a reapportionment of legislative districts based on the standards provided in this section.”

This bill seeks to introduce amendments to Republic Act No. 11243 entitled “An Act Reapportioning the First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato Thereby Creating the Lone District of General Santos City” to ensure the proper representation of the growing number of our fellow Filipinos living in the province of South Cotabato in the House of Representatives.

First, this bill seeks to ensure the proper implementation of Republic Act No. 11243. While Republic Act No. 11243 already established the Lone District of General Santos City, the incumbent representative of the First District of South Cotabato continues to sit and act as its representative.

Second, this bill seeks to create and establish a third (3rd) legislative district in the province of South Cotabato. This proposed third (3rd) legislative district will comprise of the Municipalities of Lake Sebu, Norala, Santo Niño, Surallah, and T'boli. In turn, the second (2nd) legislative of the province shall then comprise of City of Koronadal and the Municipalities of Banga and Tantangan. As of the August 2015 Census conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the province of South Cotabato has a total population of 915,289: a total of 302,176 South Cotabateños living in Koronadal City and the Municipalities of Banga and Tantangan, and a total of 351,023 South Cotabateños living in the Municipalities of Lake Sebu, Norala, Santo Niño, Surallah, and T'boli.

In compliance with the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the proposed third (3rd) legislative district of the province of South Cotabato comprise contiguous, compact, and adjacent territories.

The creation of the third additional legislative district will ultimately redound to the benefit of our countrymen – to ensure that they are sufficiently represented in the House of the people.

In light of the foregoing, the enactment of this proposed legislation is sought.



REPRESENTATIVE FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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

1 Section 1. *Title.* - The title of Republic Act No. 11243 is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

3
4 "An Act Reapportioning *the Second* Legislative District of the Province
5 of South Cotabato Thereby Creating *the Third Legislative District of the*
6 *Province of South Cotabato.*"

7
8 Section 2. *Amendment to Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11243.* - Section 1 of
9 Republic Act No. 11243 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10
11 "**Section 1.** Reapportioning the First *and Second* Legislative Districts. -
12 The First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato is hereby
13 reapportioned in order to create the Lone Legislative District of General
14 Santos City *and the Second Legislative District of the Province of South*
15 *Cotabato is hereby reapportioned in order to create the Third Legislative*
16 *District of the Province of South Cotabato.* The Legislative Districts of the
17 Province shall now be composed of the following:

1
2 (a) First Legislative District:

3 (1) Polomolok

4 (2) Tampakan

5 (3) Tupi

6
7 (b) Second Legislative District:

8 (1) *Koronadal City*

9 (2) *Banga*

10 (3) *Tantangan*

11
12 (c) *Third Legislative District:*

13 (1) Lake Sebu

14 (2) Norala

15 (3) Santo Niño

16 (4) Surallah

17 (5) T'Boli

18
19 (d) *Lone Legislative District:*

20 (1) *General Santos City.*

21
22 *General Santos City is separated from the First Legislative District of*
23 *South Cotabato to constitute the Lone District of General Santos City.*
24 *Koronadal City and the Municipalities of Banga and Tantangan are separated*
25 *from the Second Legislative District of South Cotabato to constitute the Third*
26 *Legislative District of South Cotabato. The Lone District of General Santos City*
27 *and the Third Legislative District of South Cotabato shall commence in the*
28 *next national and local elections after the effectivity of this Act."*

29
30 Section 3. *Amendment to Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11243* - Section 1 of
31 Republic Act No. 11243 is hereby amended to read as follows:
32

1 **"Section 2.** Holdover. - The incumbent Representatives of the present
2 First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato shall continue to
3 represent the *Lone Legislative District of General Santos City and the*
4 *incumbent Representative of the present Second District of South Cotabato*
5 *shall continue to represent the Third Legislative District of South Cotabato*
6 until the new Representatives shall have been elected and qualified."
7

8 Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Commission on
9 Elections shall create and issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
10 implementation of this Act.
11

12 Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and
13 other issuance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
14 amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.
15

16 Section 6. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
17 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
18

Approved, □ □