

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9535



Introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian

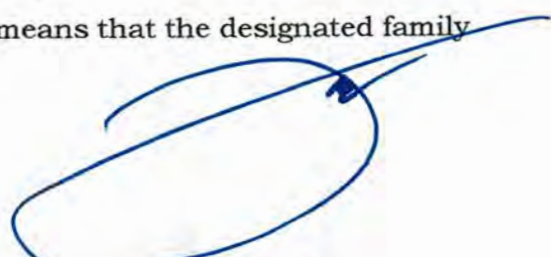
AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES TO BE
ESTABLISHED AS FAMILY COURTS IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO
MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(D) AND SECTION 27 OF
BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8396, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" provides that, "the State shall protect the rights and promote the welfare of children in keeping with the mandate of the Constitution and the precepts of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child." It further states that, "The State shall [] protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. The courts shall preserve the solidarity of the family, provide procedures for the reconciliation of spouses and the amicable settlement of family controversy."

The State can only achieve this mandate if courts can speedily resolve cases pending before it. However, the number of child and family cases currently pending before the Regional Trial Court of Valenzuela City has inequitably increased the workload of the two family courts within the city; where one was statutorily created, and the other, designated by the Supreme Court.

From October 2018 to April 2021, the RTC in the City of Valenzuela received a total of 5,916 cases. 1,606 or 27% of these cases are family court cases which are raffled to only two family courts while the remaining 4,310, or 73% of cases, are shared by the eight remaining RTC branches. This means that the designated family



courts in Valenzuela City, share an average of 806 cases between them while the other courts share an average of 539 cases each. Clearly, there is an uneven distribution of cases among the different RTC branches in the city.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish two (2) additional statutory family courts in the City of Valenzuela to hear and decide child and family cases. By creating two additional RTC branches to be designated as family courts, the burden of cases within the City of Valenzuela will be more equitably distributed. Should the Supreme Court decide to revert Branch 172 as a regular court, the three statutorily created family courts will now share an average of 535 cases between them. This will enable them to better protect the rights and promote the welfare of children, and at the same time protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social in keeping with the Constitution and RA 8396.

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



HON. WES GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District, Valenzuela City

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

1 SECTION 1. Two (2) additional Regional Trial Court branches to be established
2 as family courts are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region with seats
3 at the City of Valenzuela, Metro Manila.

4
5 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created
6 branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region.

7
8 SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
9 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court’s
10 program the operationalization of two (2) additional family court branches of the
11 Regional Trial Court to be stationed at the City of Valenzuela, Metro Manila, the
12 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
13 funds necessary for the operation of the Courts herein created shall be appropriated
14 and released only upon the actual organization of the Courts and the appointment
15 of its personnel.

16
17 SEC. 3. Section 14(d) and Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 120, otherwise
18 known as the “Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, and all other laws,

1 rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended,
2 repealed or modified accordingly.

3
4 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
6

7 Approved,