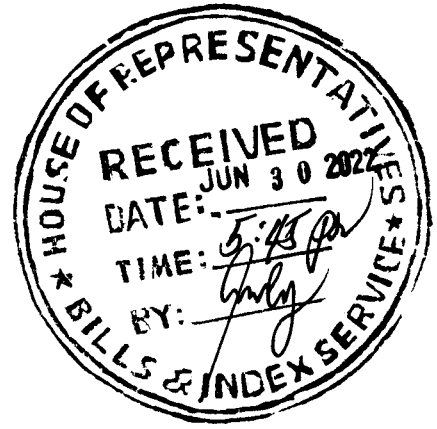


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 465



Introduced by **Hon. WILTER YAP PALMA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In philosophical terms, justice could be defined as “The first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought” (Rawls, 1973). At its very core, justice serves as the prevailing fundamental force that upholds the inherent standards of “just” behavior within the society. As a result, contemporary societies in turn would benefit from the ubiquitous quest for justice by embracing the notion that societies in its entirety should reap the benefits of the political, social and economic ecosystem equally and no person nor group should have greater benefits than the other.

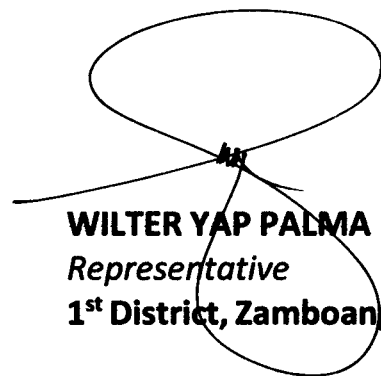
However, while acknowledging the fact that justice plays a vital role in contemporary societies, the Philippines has been accosted with various factors such as cost, accessibility and immense number of cases that have greatly affected the country’s capability to deliver justices for its citizens.

To put things into perspective, the First Legislative District of Zamboanga Sibugay only has one Regional Trial Court (RTC) located within the Municipality of Imelda while the Second Legislative District has four (4). As a result, the existing judicial court within the first district is then confronted with massive congestions, a far cry from the 300 cases recommended by the Supreme Court as well as delays which highly impedes the district’s capabilities to respond and deliver justice for its people.

In light of this, this bill seeks to create three (3) new courts within the First District of Zamboanga Sibugay to be stationed in the Municipality of Diplahan, amending for the purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1981" and appropriating funds therefor. Of the three (3) new branches of RTCs that are to be created, one has to be a Family Court while the other two (2) shall serve as courts of general jurisdiction.

In essence, the creation of these courts would greatly ease the burden of the existing court as well as address the people's need for justice that have accosted them for so long.

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



WILTER YAP PALMA
Representative
1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 465

Introduced by **HON. WILTER YAP PALMA**

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) NEW COURTS, NAMELY: ONE (1) FAMILY COURT AND TWO (2) BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, ALL IN THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 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.** One (1) Family Court and two (2) branches of Regional Trial Court,
2 with seats at the Municipality of Diplahan, are hereby created in the Ninth Judicial
3 Region.

4 **SEC 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly
5 created branches.

6 **SEC 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the
7 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's

8 program the implementation of this Act. The amount necessary for the creation
9 and the continuous funding therefore shall likewise be included in the annual
10 General Appropriations Act.

11 **SEC 4.** Section 14 (j) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as “The
12 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended, as well as other provisions that
13 may be inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed, modified and/or
14 further amended.

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

17
18 **Approved,**