

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1345



Introduced by Rep. LORETO B. ACHARON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This is a refiled bill seeking to establish four (4) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Eleventh Judicial Region to be stationed at the City of General Santos.

Our proposal is made even more significant today in view of the passage into law of Republic Act No. 11576 otherwise known as the "ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, and MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980."

To date there are only three (3) MTCC branches in General Santos City and the increase in the threshold amounts under the Revised Rules of Procedures for Small Claims Cases undeniably made the speedy disposition of cases even more challenging thus the need to establish additional branches.

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines ensures that "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies" (Sec. 16, Art. III); however, because of the continuous clogging of court dockets, this constitutionally guaranteed right tend to become more deceptive than real.

By creating additional branches, the administration of justice is raised to a higher level to assure the general public that our judicial system works for them.

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


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AN
ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Four (4) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities for the City of General Santos, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Eleventh Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.

SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. Section 14(l) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, is hereby deemed repealed, modified, or further amended.

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

APPROVED.