

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3580



Introduced by Representative Michael B. Gorriceta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the Municipality of Sta. Barbara and Pavia, in the Province of Iloilo, have seen an increase in its population due to the numerous housing developments and industries around the area. As of May 2020, the population of Sta. Barbara and Pavia has reached 67,630 and 70,388 respectively.

The current location of the 13th Municipal Circuit Trial Court in Brgy. Zone 2, Sta. Barbara, caters to clients from both the Municipalities of Sta. Barbara and Pavia. July 2020 data shows that out of one hundred ninety two (192) Criminal Cases, thirty eight (38) of those came from Sta. Barbara and one hundred fifty four (154) came from Pavia. Similarly, out of ten (10) Civil Cases, nine (9) of those belonged to Pavia and only one (1) from Sta. Barbara. Furthermore, out of the sixty seven (67) Small Claims Cases, forty six (46) came from Pavia and twenty one (21) from Sta. Barbara. As with marriages, Sta. Barbara had twenty four (24) couples and Pavia had seventeen (17) couples. This data is further reflected in the chart below:

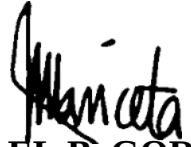
AS OF JULY 2020	MUNICIPALITY OF STA. BARBARA	MUNICIPALITY OF PAVIA
CRIMINAL CASES	38	154
CIVIL CASES	1	9
SMALL CLAIMS CASES	21	46
MARRIAGES	24	17
TOTAL	84	226

Furthermore, as of July 2021, we see the an initial Criminal Cases of sixty eight (68) for Sta. Barbara and one hundred sixty seven (167) for the Municipality of Pavia; six (6) Civil Cases for Sta. Barbara and eleven (11) for Pavia and with two (2) small claims cases each, as reflected in the chart below:

AS OF JULY 2021	MUNICIPALITY OF STA. BARBARA	MUNICIPALITY OF PAVIA
CRIMINAL CASES	68	167
CIVIL CASES	6	11
SMALL CLAIMS CASES	2	2
TOTAL	76	180

This emphasizes the pattern that majority of the clients catered by the 13th Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Sta. Barbara and Pavia, came mostly from the Municipality of Pavia, and given its geographical location with at least 8.5kms between the town proper of both municipalities, it is rightfully fitting that the separation of the Sta. Barbara Municipal Circuit Trial Court be established. Furthermore, by creating an individual Municipal Trial Court for Sta. Barbara and Pavia, it shall present an opportunity for an accessible judiciary system, logistical consideration and efficient service.

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


MICHAEL B. GORRICETA

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AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, ONE (1) MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR STA. BARBARA, AND ONE (1) MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN PAVIA, ALL SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION, THUS 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 as assembled:

SECTION 1. Two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court to be stationed in the Municipality of Sta. Barbara and in the Municipality of Pavia, situated in the Province of Iloilo are hereby created in the Sixth Judicial Region.

SECTION 2. The territorial jurisdiction of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Sta. Barbara and Pavia in the Province of Iloilo are hereby separated and a separate Municipal Trial Court for Sta. Barbara and a separate Municipal Trial Court for Pavia, respectively, shall be established therein.

SECTION 3. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches in the Sixth Judicial Region.

SECTION 4. All pending cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Sta. Barbara and Pavia shall be transferred to the newly created Municipal Trial Court in Sta. Barbara and Municipal Trial Court of Pavia, accordingly, and shall be tried and decided therein.

SECTION 5. 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 operationalization of the two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court, one (1) Municipal Trial Court in Sta. Barbara, and one (1) Municipal Trial Court in Pavia, all in the Province of Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SECTION 6. Sections 29, 30 and 31 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,