

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5615



Introduced by Representative Ysabel Maria J. Zamora

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 2020 Census of Population and Housing of the Philippine Statistics Authority, San Juan City is a 1st class highly urbanized city with a total population of 126,347 with an annual increase of 0.71% from 2015 to 2020.

With the continuing growth of San Juan City as a vibrant hub for trade, commerce, and residences, it becomes imperative to upgrade the operations of the judiciary in anticipation of the number of civil and criminal cases that may arise within the jurisdiction of the city.

At present, the court operations in San Juan City are as follows:

Only one court is assigned to San Juan City. i.e. Br. 14-FC (NCJR) which is a Family Court created by virtue of RA No. 8369 (Family Courts Act of 1997).

Regional Trial Court **Branches 68, 160, 162, and 264** located in San Juan City are branches of the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City. The Supreme Court authorized this arrangement in *Resolution* dated 25 November 2003, or Administrative Matter No. 02-11-17-SC (Re: *Equitable Distribution of the 32 RTCs in Pasig City to Nearby Cities and Municipalities*). Under the said Administrative Matter, Branches 68, 160, 162 and 264 of the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City hold office and court sessions in San Juan City. This arrangement was done due to the inability of the local government of Pasig City to physically accommodate sixteen (16) out of the thirty (32) branches of the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City. However, despite holding sessions in San Juan City, new cases originating from San Juan City are still filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) of Pasig City, before they are raffled among the aforementioned four (4) branches. Also, payments of legal fees, cash bonds and other fiduciary collections for San Juan City cases are received by the OCC of Pasig City.

Thus, this bill seeks to convert the above-mentioned four (4) branches of the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City into branches of the Regional Trial Court of San Juan City. This bill likewise seeks to create two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in San Juan City.

This bill seeks to not only make it more convenient for people to file cases which are properly within the jurisdiction of San Juan City, but also to regularize and remove the doubt and confusion as to where cases within the jurisdiction of San

Juan should be filed. More importantly, the creation of new branches exclusively for San Juan City will definitely address the growing demand for the immediate resolution of cases in the city.

The approval of this bill will result in the creation of a separate Office of the Clerk of Court for San Juan City. Likewise, the territorial jurisdiction of Pasig City will be amended to exclude cases which are within the territorial jurisdiction of San Juan City. Corollarily, the territorial jurisdiction of the Regional Trial Courts of San Juan City will be over San Juan City.

Finally, this bill seeks to create two (2) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court in San Juan City, to address the growing number of cases within the jurisdiction of said court.

In consonance with the State's policy of providing an effective mechanism for the efficient administration of justice, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


Representative Ysabel Maria J. Zamora
Lone District, San Juan City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5615

Introduced by Representative Ysabel Maria J. Zamora

AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COURTS IN SAN JUAN CITY, BY CONVERTING FOUR (4) BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF PASIG CITY, WHICH ARE STATIONED IN SAN JUAN CITY, METRO MANILA, INTO THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF SAN JUAN CITY, AND BY CREATING TWO (2) BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT OF SAN JUAN CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) AND SECTION 27 OF 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.** Four (4) branches (68, 160, 162 and 264) under the jurisdiction of the
2 Regional Trial Court of Pasig City, which are stationed in San Juan City, are hereby
3 converted into Regional Trial Courts of San Juan City, Metro Manila.
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- 5 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers of the newly converted
6 branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region, if
7 needed.
8
- 9 **SECTION 2.** Two (2) branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed in San
10 Juan City are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region (“NCJR”).
11
- 12 The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly
13 created branches of the Regional Trial Court in the NCJR.
14
- 15 **SECTION 3.** An Office of the Clerk of Court shall be created and organized with
16 the corresponding plantilla based on the number of branches in said station.
17
- 18 **SECTION 4.** The jurisdiction over cases cognizable by the Regional Trial Court
19 under existing law, emanating from the City of San Juan, Metro Manila shall be
20 lodged in the Regional Trial Court branches created under this Act, and in other
21 branches of the said court which may subsequently be created and organized.
22
- 23 **SECTION 5.** The territorial jurisdiction of Pasig City is hereby modified to exclude
24 San Juan City.

SECTION 6. Two (2) branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court to be stationed in San Juan City are hereby created in the NCJR.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court in the NCJR.

SECTION 7. 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 these converted and newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the newly created branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court in San Juan City.

The amounts necessary for the creation of these branches and the continuous funding therefore shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Section 14(d) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,