

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8194**



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Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**  
First District, Bohol

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

“This Court has consistently impressed upon judges the need to decide cases promptly and expeditiously on the principle that justice delayed is justice denied. Delay in the disposition of cases erodes the faith and confidence of our people in the judiciary, lowers its standards and brings it into disrepute.”<sup>1</sup>

True. But it is also injustice if the judges deciding the cases are burdened with case loads beyond capacity. More important than the speedy disposition of a case is its judicious disposition. Substance must not give way to time.

With the number of legal disputes exponentially increasing and the complexity of issues going with it at times, the judges must be ensured that they are only given what they can chew. We need to help the judges by creating additional courts that would divide the work.

The Province of Bohol is a growing economy in the Central Visayas region. With this growth comes increase in legal issues requiring judicial intervention. In the year 2020 alone, there are 1,400 violence against women and their children (VAWC) cases pending in various courts in the province.<sup>2</sup>

The eleven (11) Regional Trial Courts spread across forty seven (47) municipalities and one (1) city of 1,390,524 population<sup>3</sup> of the Province of Bohol is hardly a picture of speedy justice.

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

  
**EDGAR M. CHATTO**

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<sup>1</sup> Miguel Abarquez vs. Rebosura, A.M. No. MTJ-94-986 January 28, 1998; Office of the Court Administrator vs. Rebosura, A.M. No. MTJ-95-1052 January 28, 1998; Aniceta Tarles vs. Rebosura, A.M. No. MTJ-95-1069 January 28, 1998

<sup>2</sup> As of 2020 data from the Philippine Statistics Authority

<sup>3</sup> As of 2020 data from the Philippine Statistics Authority

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**  
**IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF BALILIHAN, PROVINCE OF BOHOL,**  
**FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (C)**  
**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:*

**Section 1.** An additional Regional Trial Court branch of Balilihan, Bohol, with seat thereat, is hereby created in the Seventh Judicial Region.

**Section 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the respective and corresponding branch number for the branch newly created.

**Section 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall immediately cause the inclusion in the Court’s program the implementation of this Act.

**Section 4.** The funds necessary for the operation of the court herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

**Section 5.** Section 14 (c) 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 repealed, modified and/or further amended.

**Section 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.