

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

19th CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10864

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The establishment of a permanent Congressional District Office in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna, is a necessary step to ensure that the current and succeeding Representative of the Lone District of Calamba can continue to effectively serve and make services accessible to all constituents. This bill proposes the creation of such an office, providing a permanent and identifiable location where the people of Calamba can reach out for assistance with their needs.

Currently, the temporary district office serves an average of at least 1,000 constituents on a weekly basis. This high volume of service compels the Representative to constantly seek appropriate venues to accommodate the growing demands. A permanent Congressional District Office will address this issue by offering a stable and consistent place where constituents know they can seek help, regardless of who holds the office.

Moreover, the establishment of this office will provide the necessary infrastructure to support various legislative initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of the constituents at a lower cost. Among these initiatives is the creation of a congressional district library, which shall be housed within the office. This modern library, to be named the "Jose Rizal Public Library" in honor of our national hero born in Calamba, will serve as a hub for education and enlightenment, reflecting Dr. Rizal's enduring influence on our nation's cultural and intellectual development. This initiative aligns with Republic Act No. 7743, which mandates the creation of public libraries and reading centers nationwide.

In addition, the office may also serve as the site for a breastmilk bank, a vital initiative that addresses the urgent need for accessible breastmilk for infants who require it. The breastmilk bank in Calamba will facilitate the collection, screening, processing, and distribution of donated breastmilk, ensuring that infants in need receive the nourishment essential for their growth and development. It will also function as a center for breastfeeding support and education, empowering mothers with the knowledge and resources necessary for successful breastfeeding, thereby promoting improved maternal and child health outcomes.

The establishment of this office will further enable the Representative to directly engage with the grassroots, providing a logistical base for the distribution of goods and services to constituents. This will significantly enhance the capacity of the Representative to deliver meaningful and timely assistance to the people of Calamba.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to ensure that all future Representatives of the Lone District of Calamba have a dedicated office to serve their constituents effectively and efficiently.

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

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Congressional District Office - There shall be established a Congressional District Office in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna. This office shall serve as the official district office of the Representative of the Lone District of Calamba.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure that all legislative districts are adequately served by their elected representatives. To promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service, there is a need to establish a Congressional District Office in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna.

SECTION 3. Functions and Responsibilities - The Congressional District Office shall perform the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Serve as the primary liaison between the constituents of the Lone District of Calamba and their elected Representative;

b) Provide assistance to constituents in matters related to government services and programs;
c) Facilitate communication and coordination between the Representative and local government units, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders;
d) Serve as a venue for public consultations, town hall meetings, and other activities related to legislative and district matters;
e) Perform other functions as may be necessary to ensure the effective and efficient service of the Representative to the constituents; and
f) Provide the necessary infrastructure to support various legislative initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of the constituents at a lower cost.

SECTION 4. Staffing and Organization – The Congressional District Office shall be staffed by a District Officer, administrative personnel, and such other staff as may be necessary. The staffing pattern and organizational structure of the office shall be determined by the Representative, subject to existing laws and regulation.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Representative of the Lone District of Calamba, in coordination with relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Congressional District Office shall be sourced from the budget of the Office of the Representative of the Lone District of Calamba, Province of Laguna.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,