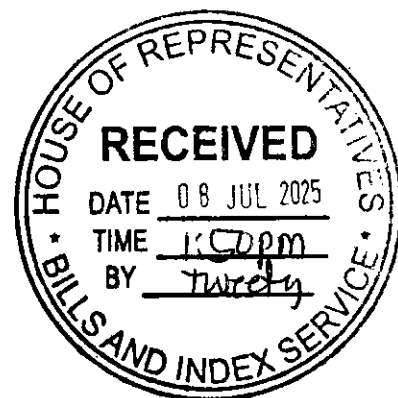


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1579



INTRODUCED BY **REP. KRISTINE ALIXIE B. TUTOR**

THIRD DISTRICT, BOHOL

AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF CANDIJAY AND VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
14(H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 Article III of the Philippine Constitution states that "*All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.*"

While the third district of Bohol is composed of nineteen (19) municipalities within its jurisdiction, only a handful of RTCs serve within its territory.

In recent years, urbanization in many provinces and municipalities has presented numerous opportunities for their residents, as well as challenges in ensuring that the rights of their constituents are effectively addressed. The province of Bohol is not exempt from this fact. Such a condition is observed in the municipalities of Candijay and Valencia. With the increasing demographic and economic growth, disputes related to various commercial activities have also risen.

Thus, the creation of an additional court, as proposed herein, is necessary to alleviate the congestion in the dockets of the existing courts in the province, which significantly delays the administration of justice to constituents who are often burdened by the difficulty and costs of settling their legal disputes in neighboring municipalities. To improve the disposition and administration of justice and ensure that we realize the constitutional principle of accessibility and effective delivery of justice, the number of courts must necessarily be increased.

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


REP. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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SECTION 1. Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Seventh Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the Municipalities of Candijay and Valencia, Province of Bohol.

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

SEC. 2. 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 additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipalities of Candijay and Valencia, Province of Bohol.

SEC. 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for judges and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Section 14(h) 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.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,