

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **1866**



Introduced by: HONORABLE ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create a separate district engineering office for the Second District of Camarines Norte that will have jurisdiction over the Municipalities of Basud, Daet, Mercedes, San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Vicente, Talisay, and Vinzons, all located in the said legislative district.

The clamor for the creation of a separate district engineering office started in 2009 when Congress passed Republic Act No. 9725, which divided the lone legislative district of the Province of Camarines Norte into two (2) legislative districts. There were numerous requests presented to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and even reached the Office of the President but all efforts of political leaders on this issue came to naught as these proposals were not acted upon.

Fortunately, the urgency for the creation of a separate district engineering office for each legislative district has been recognized when the DPWH issued Department Order No. 74, Series of 2022, which created the Camarines Norte Sub-District Engineering Office (Camarines Norte Second District Engineering Office) from the existing Camarines Norte District Engineering Office in the Province of Camarines Norte. However, there are certain limitations in terms of creating plantilla positions, operationalization and other factors that require appropriations in Department Orders and similar issuances unlike in an Act of Congress, which will already authorize the disbursement of public funds, and has a degree of permanence unless repealed by a subsequent Act of Congress.

This bill was already approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and was approved by the Senate Committee on Public Works and Highways. However, due to lack of material time, this important piece of legislation was not included among those bills approved by the Senate during the Nineteenth Congress.

The foregoing reasons warrant the immediate approval of this bill.


ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES
Representative
Second District, Camarines Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1866

Introduced by: HONORABLE ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE CAMARINES NORTE FIRST DISTRICT ENGINEERING
OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, RENAMING
THE EXISTING DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
DAET AS THE CAMARINES NORTE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. A district engineering office of the Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby established in the Province of Camarines Norte to be known as the Camarines Norte First District Engineering Office. It shall be located in the Municipality of Labo and shall serve the municipalities of Capalonga, Jose Panganiban, Labo, Paracale, and Santa Elena, all in the First Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Norte.

SEC. 2. The existing district engineering office of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the Municipality of Daet is hereby renamed as the Camarines Norte Second District Engineering Office and shall serve the municipalities of Basud, Daet, Mercedes, San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Vicente, Talisay, and Vinzons, all in the Second Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Norte.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Camarines Norte First District Engineering Office and the Camarines Norte Second District Engineering Office, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,