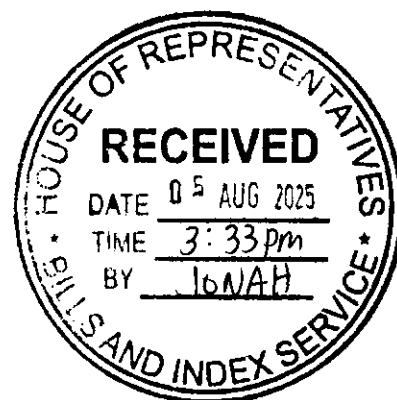


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3122

Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS

AN ACT
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ, PROVINCE OF ABRA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Bill of Rights, every individual has a right to an efficient and expeditious handling of their cases. Section 16, Article III of the Constitution provides: "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." However, this constitutional right has become illusory to many Filipinos due to the ceaseless congestion of the dockets in the country.

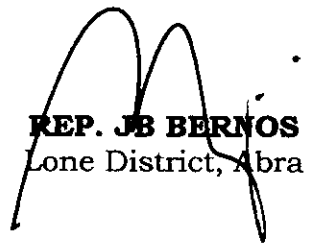
In the Lone District of Abra, only three (3) Regional Trial Court branches along with one (1) unorganized branch manage the cases of twenty-seven (27) municipalities. Two (2) of these branches are found in the Municipality of Bangued while one stands (1) in the Municipality of Bucay.

As the highest trial court in the country, Regional Trial Courts exercise appellate jurisdiction over cases decided by the lower courts. In order to execute a quick and organized manner to provide fair and impartial delivery of justice to the people, the court staff and the presiding judge should only be handling a

manageable number of cases. With the insufficient number of Regional Trial Courts in the Province, the court employees and the presiding judges are burdened with an insufferable number of cases resulting in clogged dockets. Furthermore, the geographical characteristic of the Province of Abra requires the people to travel long distances to reach the available courthouses. These factors contribute to the delay in the administration of justice to the Abreños.

Therefore, this Bill seeks to create one (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Province of Abra, to be located in the Municipality of La Paz. The creation of an additional branch will provide a closer option for the Abreños to process their legal needs and lessen the workload on the already existing branches.

In the light of the foregoing and the immediate delivery of justice to the people of Abra, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra

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

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the First Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of La Paz, Province of Abra.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branch 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 branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of La Paz, Province of Abra. The funds necessary for the operation of the court herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.

Sec. 3. Section 14 (a) 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. 4. 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,