

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3181



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes the creation of an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) to be stationed in the Municipality of Isabela, Negros Occidental, by amending Section 14(g) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the “Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980,” as amended. It also seeks the appropriation of the necessary funds for its establishment and operation.

At present, the Regional Trial Court serving the Fifth Legislative District is located in La Carlota City, which falls within the Fourth District of Negros Occidental and is approximately one to two hours away from Isabela by public transportation. This single RTC branch currently caters to cases originating from three municipalities in the Fifth District which is the Isabela, Moises Padilla, and La Castellana, resulting in a high volume of cases and severely burdened court dockets.

The significant distance to the nearest RTC and the growing caseload have contributed to delays in case resolution, difficulty in access for litigants and witnesses, and a gradual erosion of public confidence in the justice system. These challenges hinder the fair and efficient administration of justice, particularly for constituents in remote areas.

With this, the immediate enactment of this bill is necessary. The establishment of a new RTC branch in Isabela will help decongest existing court dockets, improve access to judicial services, and uphold the constitutional mandate under Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Constitution, which guarantees the right of all persons to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.

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


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HOUSE BILL NO. 3181

Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

AN ACT CREATING A NEW REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Additional Regional Trial Court Branch.*

One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Sixth Judicial Region is hereby created and be stationed in the Municipality of Isabela, Negros Occidental.

SEC. 2. *Amendment.* For this purpose, Section 14 paragraph (g) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

x x x

(g) (Sixty-three) **SIXTY-FOUR** Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial Region. There shall be:

x x x

(Twenty-four) **TWENTY-FIVE BRANCHES** for the province of Negros Occidental, and the cities of Bacolod, Bago, Cadiz, La Carlota, San Carlos and Silay, with seats at Silay City, Bacolod City, Himamaylan City, Kabankalan City, Bago City, La Carlota City, and **ISABELA**.

SEC. 3. *Personnel Appointment.* The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court. Likewise, it shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations to ensure the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Operation.* The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary 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 Isabela, Negros Occidental. The funds necessary for the operation of the court shall be released only upon the actual organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Supreme Court. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for its continuous and effective implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* Section 14(g) 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. 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,