

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH (20<sup>TH</sup>) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3859



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Introduced by Representative Maria Cristina C. Angeles

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The right to a speedy disposition of cases is a fundamental constitutional guarantee enshrined in Article III, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution. However, this right remains elusive for many litigants due to the chronic problem of court congestion and the overwhelming caseloads handled by our trial courts, particularly in fast-growing urban centers like Tarlac City.

As the capital of the Province of Tarlac and a regional center for commerce, education, healthcare, and governance, Tarlac City has experienced significant population growth and economic development over the years. This progress, while welcome, has also led to an exponential increase in legal disputes, criminal prosecutions, and civil litigation, stretching the existing judicial infrastructure to its limits.

Currently, Tarlac City is served by a limited number of Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) and Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MTCCs), which are burdened by high caseloads. These heavy dockets contribute to judicial delays and hinder the prompt administration of justice, compromising both public trust and the efficient delivery of legal services.

To address this issue and ensure access to justice for all, this bill seeks to create one (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and three (3) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Tarlac City. The creation of these courts is intended to decongest the current docket, provide sufficient venues for timely legal proceedings, and strengthen the overall capacity of the judiciary in the region.

The proposed measure is consistent with the Supreme Court's policy of rationalizing and expanding the trial court system in response to demographic and caseload demands. It is likewise in line with the legislative mandate under Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, or The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended, which authorizes the creation of additional courts as necessary.

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

  
MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES  
Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Tarlac

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**AN ACT  
CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND THREE (3)  
ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES IN TARLAC CITY,  
PROVINCE OF TARLAC, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980"  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court Branches and three (3) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities to be stationed in the City of Tarlac, Province of Tarlac, are hereby created in the Third Judicial Region.

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

**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, and the Municipal Trial Court in Cities to be stationed in the City of Tarlac, Province of Tarlac, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 3.** Section 14 (1) and Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

**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,*