

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3878



Introduced by ***Rep. Daphne A. Lagon and Rep. Sonny L. Lagon***

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create a Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Municipality of Consolacion, Province of Cebu, covering in its jurisdiction the Municipalities of Consolacion and Cordova.

The 1987 Constitution guarantees the right to a speedy trial. Often, we hear the phrase, "justice delayed is justice denied". It is however, common knowledge that our courts are **congested** and cases takes years to be resolved. The corresponding increase in the population and economic growth in the Province of Cebu, particularly in the newly-created 6th District, inevitably results to an increase in legal cases, both civil and criminal. Unfortunately, there is no Regional Trial Court (RTC) yet that specifically covers the 6th Legislative District or the municipalities of Consolacion and Cordova.

This predicament is causing undue inconvenience to litigants from the 6th District as cases falling under the jurisdiction of the RTC are currently handled by Regional Trial Courts in Mandaue, Lapu-lapu and Cebu cities.

The creation of the new RTC to be located in Consolacion, a first income-class municipality which is home to one hundred fifty-three thousand residents, will certainly improve the dispensation of justice and the delivery of the judiciary's services in the district, while helping decongest the regional trial courts in Mandaue, Lapu-lapu and Cebu cities.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


DAPHNE A. LAGON
6th District, Cebu


SONNY "SL" L. LAGON
Party List, Ako Bisaya

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AN ACT

CREATING A REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONSOLACION, PROVINCE OF CEBU, 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Seventh Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Consolacion, Province of Cebu. 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 Consolacion, Province of Cebu. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and, if warranted, the realignment of seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

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, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of automatically created prosecutor positions pursuant to section 13 of Republic Act No. 10071 or the "Prosecution Service Act of 2010" and appointment of public attorneys pursuant to section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the "Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO)", resulting from the creation of these courts, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for prosecutors and public attorneys, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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. 4. In view of the proposed additional regional trial court, the Regional Trial Court of Consolacion, Cebu shall have a staffing pattern as follows:

No. of Positions	Position Title	SG
1	Regional Trial Court Judge	29
1	Clerk of Court VI	25
1	Court Legal Researcher II	15
1	Interpreter III	12
4	Court Stenographer III	12
1	Sheriff IV	12
1	Data Entry Machine Operator II	8
2	Clerk III	6
1	Process Server	5
1	Utility Worker I	1
14	Personnel	

The staff complement of the new office of the clerk of court (OCC) shall be composed of nine (9) personnel, while the data entry machine operator (DEMO) from the original RTC will be transferred to the OCC, unless modified as determined by the Supreme Court.

In addition, there shall be appointed the corresponding number of prosecutor/s and public attorney/s and their support staff based on the ratio outlined in Republic Act No. 10071 and Republic Act No. 9406, respectively.

SEC. 5. Section 14(l) 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. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,