

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4311



Introduced by **HON. JORGE DANIEL S. BOCOBO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.”

Psalms 33:5

Justice is one of the foundations of a strong and orderly society. As the Scriptures remind us, righteousness and justice reflect God’s will for His people. It is thus imperative that the State ensures the swift and fair dispensation of justice to all Filipinos. Indeed, justice delayed is justice denied.

At present, the City of Taguig has only eight (8) branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and four (4) branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC). This is inadequate to address the pressing demands of the city’s growing caseload, rapid population increase, and dynamic economic activity.

Data from the Supreme Court–Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) show that there are 3,766 pending cases in RTC branches and 2,470 pending cases in MeTC branches in Taguig. This translates to an average caseload of 471 cases per RTC branch and 618 cases per MeTC branch—well above the OCA’s target caseload of 300 cases per branch.

The number of cases is projected to rise even further with the addition of ten (10) barangays following the transfer of jurisdiction over the ten (10) barangays from the Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation to Taguig City¹. This development placed over 300,000 additional residents under the city’s constituency, thereby creating a foreseeable increase in cases filed before its courts.

To temporarily address this, courts from neighboring areas were designated to help decongest Taguig courts. However, this remains an interim measure. Without a proportional increase in permanent court branches, personnel, and resources, the judicial system in Taguig will be overburdened, leading to backlogs and delays.

This measure therefore seeks to create five (5) additional MeTC branches and ten (10) additional RTC branches in the National Capital Judicial Region, to be stationed in the City of Taguig.

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


JORGE DANIEL S. BOCOBO

¹ Pursuant to Supreme Court’s final Decision in Municipality of Makati vs. Municipality of Taguig (G.R. No. 235316, 01 December 2021)

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AN ACT
CREATING TEN (10) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT, IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and Five (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court, to be stationed in the City of Taguig, Metro Manila are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers of the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region stationed in the City of Taguig.

SEC. 3. 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 ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and five (5) additional branches of the Metropolitan Trial Court to be stationed in the City of Taguig, Metro Manila, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. Section 14 (d) and Section 27 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,