

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7208



INTRODUCED BY HON. ANNA YORK P. BONDOC, M.D.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
APALIT AND CANDABA, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to justice is a fundamental right that must be readily available to all.

The Fourth District of Pampanga, has experienced continued population growth, expanding economic activity, and an increasing volume of cases that place a significant strain on existing courts located in distant areas. As a result, litigants, witnesses, and court personnel are burdened by long travel times, additional expenses, and delays in the resolution of cases.

The establishment of Regional Trial Courts in Apalit and Candaba will directly address these concerns by bringing judicial services closer to the people. These courts will help decongest existing trial courts in the province, ensure the speedy disposition of cases, and strengthen the administration of justice in the Fourth District of Pampanga. More importantly, they will improve access to justice for ordinary citizens, particularly the poor and vulnerable, thereby reinforcing public trust in the judicial system and promoting the rule of law at the local level.

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

Anna York P. Bondoc
Rep. Anna York P. Bondoc, M.D.
4th District Pampanga

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THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of Regional Trial Courts.

There are hereby established new Regional Trial Courts in the Municipality of Apalit and in the Municipality of Candaba, Province of Pampanga. The seats of the Regional Trial Courts shall be located in the said municipalities.

SEC. 2. Amendment of Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129.

Section 14, paragraph (c) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as the *Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980*, is hereby further amended to include the newly established Regional Trial Courts in the Municipalities of Apalit and Candaba, Province of Pampanga, under the appropriate judicial region.

SEC. 3. Jurisdiction.

The Regional Trial Courts established under this Act shall exercise the jurisdiction vested in Regional Trial Courts under existing laws. The territorial jurisdiction of each court shall cover the municipality where it is stationed and such other municipalities or areas as may be determined by the Supreme Court.

SEC. 4. Organization and Staffing.

The Supreme Court shall determine the number of branches, organizational structure, staffing pattern, and qualification requirements of the judges and court personnel to be appointed to the Regional Trial Courts established under this Act.

SEC. 5. Appropriations.

The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including the appointment of judges and court personnel and the establishment, operation, and maintenance of court facilities, shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Judiciary. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued operation of the said courts shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Authority.

The Supreme Court shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity.

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

APPROVED.