

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7393



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create another legislative district in the Province of Benguet. It proposes to divide the current lone legislative district of Benguet Province into two (2) legislative districts. The first legislative district shall be composed of the Municipalities of Sablan, Tuba, Itogon, Bokod, and Kabayan, while the second legislative district shall consist of the Municipalities of La Trinidad, Tublay, Kapangan, Atok, Buguias, Mankayan, Bakun, and Kibungan.

Since its establishment in 1966 by virtue of Republic Act No. 4695, otherwise known as the "*Subdivision Law of Mountain Province*", Benguet, which is composed of thirteen (13) municipalities, has remained represented by only one (1) member in Congress, notwithstanding the steady increase of its population over the years. Additionally, the province's mountainous terrain characterized by peaks, ridges, and deep canyons, as well as the wide geographical dispersion of its communities has posed constraints on effective representation and social service delivery.

A clamor to divide the Benguet Province into two (2) legislative districts arises from the need for a more workable political and geographical grouping. This proposed measure is expected to improve legislative responsiveness and enable a more efficient and effective delivery of basic social services to the people of Benguet.

Lastly, the creation of a second legislative district in the Province of Benguet will enhance democratic representation by giving the people another voice in the august halls of the House of Representatives, thereby ensuring broader participation in the legislative process and more effective promotion and protection of the people's interests and welfare.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO TWO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

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

Section 1. *Apportionment of the Lone Legislative District of Benguet Province.* — The existing Lone Legislative District of the Province of Benguet is hereby reapportioned into two (2) legislative districts as follows:

a. The First Legislative District shall be composed of the following municipalities:

1. Sablan
2. Tuba
3. Itogon
4. Bokod
5. Kabayan

b. The Second Legislative District shall be composed of the following municipalities:

1. La Trinidad
2. Tublay
3. Kapangan
4. Atok
5. Buguias
6. Mankayan
7. Bakun
8. Kibungan

SEC. 2. *Hold Over.* — The present representative for the lone district of the Province of Benguet shall continue to represent the whole province until the

representatives from the districts herein created shall have been elected and qualified.

SEC. 3. *Election.* — The first election for the purpose of electing the representatives of the herein created legislative districts shall be held in the national and local elections following the approval of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Commission on Elections shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,