



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7401

Introduced by Representative LORENZ R. DEFENSOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

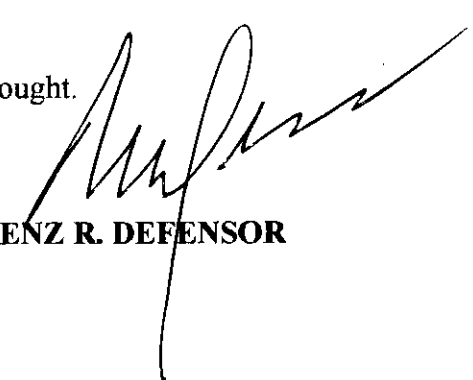
Article III of the 1987 Constitution is replete with provisions on **equal protection of the law, free access to the courts, quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance; and the right to a speedy disposition of their cases**, however these provisions are rendered useless due to the difficulties faced by litigants and residences who need the services of the courts as they make their way to the City of Iloilo; a direct result caused by the absence of any branch of the lower courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government unit of Janiuay, Iloilo.

“Justice delayed is justice denied” – a well-acknowledged legal maxim denoting that if legal reparation or equitable relief to an injured party exists, but is not made available in a timely fashion, is effectively the same as having no remedy at all.

This bill therefore seeks the creation of one branch of the Municipal Trial Court (MTC) in the Province of Iloilo to be stationed in the Municipality of Janiuay.

The creation of these courts will greatly ease the load of pending cases docketed at the courts in the City of Janiuay and contribute to an even more efficient and effective administration of justice in the Province of Iloilo.

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


LORENZ R. DEFENSOR



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7401

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AN ACT
CREATING ONE BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC) IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JANUAY, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(M) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a branch of the Municipal Trial Court in the Sixth Judicial Region, to be stationed at the Municipality of Januay, province of Iloilo.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers each of the newly-created Municipal Trial Court branch in the Sixth Judicial Region.

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 newly-created branches of the Municipal Trial Court in the Municipality of Januay, Province of Iloilo.

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, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Section 14(K) and Section 30 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 29, 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. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.