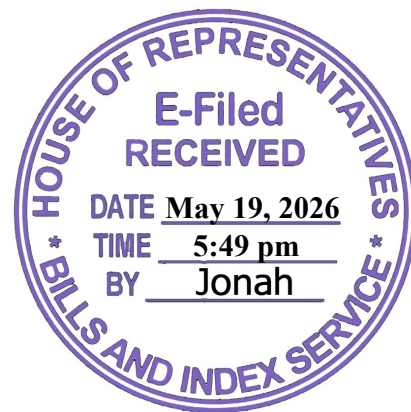


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9346



Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL "WOWO" L. FORTES, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The family is recognized under the Constitution as the foundation of the nation. As such, the State has the duty to protect and strengthen the family as a basic social institution, especially in matters involving children, domestic relations, adoption, violence against women and children, custody, support, and other cases affecting the welfare of Filipino families.

In the Province of Sorsogon, residents from the Municipality of Gubat and neighboring towns are constrained to travel considerable distances in order to access Family Courts located in other areas of the judicial region. This situation poses financial and logistical burdens, particularly on women, children, and senior citizens – litigants who are the usual parties in family-related cases.

The current number of Family Courts serving the area remains insufficient to adequately address the growing volume of family-related cases in the Province of Sorsogon. This situation contributes to court congestion, delays in the disposition of cases, and difficulties for litigants seeking timely judicial relief. Establishing a Family Court in the municipality will help decongest existing court dockets, improve access to justice, and ensure the timely resolution of sensitive family-related matters.

Therefore, this measure seeks to create a new branch of the Family Court to be stationed in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon, pursuant to Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997." Through this measure, the State reaffirms its commitment to protecting the welfare of Filipino families and ensuring that justice remains accessible, responsive, and compassionate to the needs of the people.

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


ATTY. MANUEL "WOWO" L. FORTES, JR.
Representative
Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
Republic of the Philippines
First Regular Session

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9346

Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

**AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF FAMILY COURT IN THE
FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT,
PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SEC. 1. One (1) additional branch of Family Court in the Fifth Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the “Family Courts Act of 1997”.

The Supreme Court shall assign a branch number to the newly created branch of Family 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 Family Court in the Fifth Judicial Region stationed in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon.

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. Sections 14(k) 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. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,