

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9672

Introduced by
Representative AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE “Ditse Tina” C. PANCHO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Baliwag, officially the City of Baliwag, is a component city composed of twenty-seven (27) barangays in the Province of Bulacan. It was converted from a municipality into a component city in 2022 by virtue of Republic Act No. 11929. Since its cityhood, Baliwag has experienced accelerated urbanization, robust commercial expansion, and sustained population growth, establishing itself as a key economic and service hub in Northern Bulacan.

At present, judicial services for cases within the Regional Trial Court level involving Baliwag City are primarily handled by the RTC branches stationed in Malolos City, the capital of Bulacan Province. Data from the RTC Malolos reveal a steadily increasing caseload originating from Baliwag City, with 340 criminal cases and 8 civil cases filed in 2023; 388 criminal cases and 21 civil cases in 2024; 466 criminal cases and 16 civil cases in 2025; and 142 criminal cases and 16 civil cases as of April 13, 2026. This sustained upward trend demonstrates the increasing judicial demand generated by Baliwag and its surrounding municipalities.

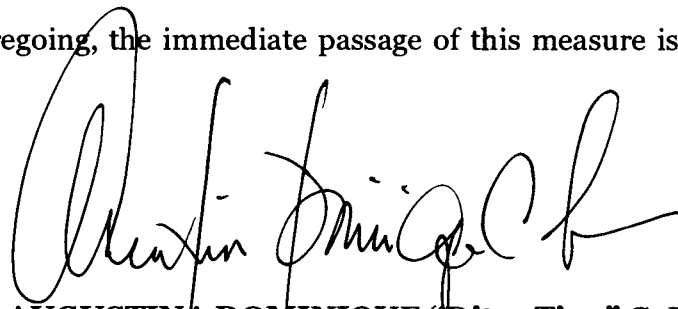
However, in the Province of Bulacan, the nearest RTC branches are stationed in Malolos City, the capital of Bulacan Province, where the residents of Baliwag City and from remote municipalities have often to endure long, burdensome travel to Malolos City RTCs to access judicial services, incurring considerable financial expenses and additional physical, emotional, and mental strain. Moreover, the heavily congested cases in the Regional Trial Courts of Malolos City leads to delays which, in effect, deny many individuals and Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) the constitutional guarantee of speedy disposition of their cases.

Accordingly, the creation of a Regional Trial Court branch in the City of Baliwag will significantly decongest the RTC dockets in Malolos City, bring judicial services

closer to litigants, and enhance the efficiency of court processes. It will likewise benefit not only the City of Baliwag but also neighboring municipalities in northern and eastern Bulacan such as Angat, Bustos, San Rafael, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Norzagaray, and Doña Remedios Trinidad, particularly in ensuring timely resolution of cases and improved access to justice.

Moreover, given Baliwag's role as an emerging commercial and service center, further reinforced by its rapidly increasing population and its strategic location along major road networks connecting Metro Manila and nearby provinces, adjacent municipalities are likewise expected to benefit from improved access to courts and more efficient judicial processes.

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



AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE "Ditse Tina" C. PANCHO
Representative, 2nd District of Bulacan

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9672**

Introduced by
Representative AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE “Ditse Tina” C. PANCHO

**“AN ACT
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL COURT SALAS IN THE REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BALIWAG,
PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
14(G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of Additional Regional Trial Court Branch. There shall be two (2) additional court salas in the Regional Trial Court (RTC) to be stationed in the City of Baliwag, Province of Bulacan.

The RTC branches created herein shall exercise jurisdiction over cases arising within its territorial jurisdiction, in accordance with existing laws and rules of the Supreme Court.

SECTION 2. Notification and Implementation. The Supreme Court shall be notified of the establishment of the additional RTC sala in the City of Baliwag, Province of Bulacan. It shall issue the necessary rules, orders, and implementing guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. Operationalization and Personnel Appointment. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of Justice, shall include in the Judiciary’s program the operationalization of the additional RTC branch

in Baliwag City. The appointment of judges and personnel shall be in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Supreme Court. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If any provision is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain valid and effective.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. Section 14(g) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, and all inconsistent laws, rules, and regulations are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,