



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10600**



**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES MARCELINO C. LIBANAN and
CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES**

AN ACT
CREATING A FAMILY COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The family is the foundation of Philippine society, and the State has the constitutional duty to protect its sanctity and strengthen its role as the basic autonomous social institution. In recognition of this mandate, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the Family Courts Act of 1997, to establish specialized courts that exclusively hear and decide cases involving children and family relations. Section 3 of the law expressly provides that there shall be established a Family Court in every province and city in the country.

Despite this clear legislative policy, the Province of Eastern Samar has yet to be provided with a dedicated Family Court. Consequently, cases involving child abuse, domestic violence, adoption, guardianship, custody, juvenile offenders, support, and other family-related matters continue to be handled by regular Regional Trial Courts, adding to their already congested dockets and resulting in delays in the resolution of cases that require prompt, specialized, and child-sensitive adjudication.

The establishment of a Family Court in Eastern Samar will strengthen the administration of justice by ensuring that family and child-related cases are heard by judges and court personnel with the specialized training, expertise, and sensitivity required under the law. It will likewise promote the speedy disposition of cases, reduce docket congestion in existing Regional Trial

Courts, enhance the protection of children's rights, and improve access to justice for families throughout the province.

This measure seeks to fulfill the intent of Republic Act No. 8369 by finally establishing a Family Court in the Province of Eastern Samar, thereby ensuring that its residents enjoy the same level of judicial protection and specialized legal services envisioned by the Family Courts Act of 1997.



MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
Representative
4Ps Partylist



CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES
Representative
Lone District, Eastern Samar



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

SECTION 1. – A branch of a Family Court with seats in the Province of Eastern Samar is hereby created.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the newly created branch of Family Court.

SEC. 2. – The jurisdiction over cases cognizable by the Family Court under existing laws, emanating from the Province of Eastern Samar, shall be lodged in the Family Court branch created under this Act.

SEC. 3. - The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the program of the Supreme Court the operationalization of the new Family Court in the Province of Eastern Samar. The amount necessary for the creation and continuous funding, therefore, shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the court and appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. - Section 14(i) 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 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,