

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 604

Submitted by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations on September 7, 2026

Re: House Bill No. 11154

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 26

Sponsors: Representatives Atty. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing and Niko Raul S.J. Daza

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Justice and Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 26, introduced by Representative Niko Raul S.J. Daza, entitled:

AN ACT

CREATING THREE BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATARMAN, ALLEN AND LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (i) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 11154 entitled:

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATARMAN, ALLEN AND LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 26, with Representatives Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Atty. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Laarni Lavin Roque, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco, III, King George Leandro Antonio V. Collantes, Loreto S. Amante, Arnan C. Panaligan, Lordan G. Suan, Janice Degamo, Bernadette S. Barbers, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Keith Micah "Atty Mike" D.L. Tan, Janette L. Garin, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Jose "Bong" J. Teves Jr. Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Jose C. Alvarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joseph S. Tan, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina Jr., Dante S. Garcia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Patricia C. Calderon, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Carlos Andes Loria, Antolin A. Oreta III, Rolando M. Valeriano, Florabel C. Yatco, Antonino B. Roman III, Nelson S. Legacion, Dibu S. Tuan, Amado Carlos A. Bolilia IV, Arlyn P. Ayon, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Jan Franz Norbert Joselito A. Chan, Mark O. Cojuangco, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Roman T. Romulo and Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



Atty. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11154

(In substitution of House Bill No. 26)

Introduced by Representatives Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Atty. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Laarni Lavin Roque, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III, King George Leandro Antonio V. Collantes, Loreto S. Amante, Arnan C. Panaligan, Lordan G. Suan, Janice Degamo, Bernadette S. Barbers, Jan "Atty. "JP" Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Keith Micah "Atty Mike" D.L. Tan, Janette L. Garin, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr. Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Jose C. Alvarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joseph S. Tan, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina, Jr., Dante S. Garcia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Patricia C. Calderon, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Carlos Andes Loria, Antolin A. Oreta III, Rolando M. Valeriano, Florabel C. Yatco, Antonino B. Roman III, Nelson S. Legacion, Dibu S. Tuan, Amado Carlos A. Bolilia IV, Arlyn P. Ayon, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Jan Franz Norbert Joselito A. Chan, Mark O. Cojuangco, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Roman T. Romulo and Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATARMAN, ALLEN AND LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Eighth Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the Municipalities of Catarman, Allen and Laoang, Province of Northern Samar.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial 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 branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipalities of Catarman, Allen and Laoang, Province of Northern Samar.

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, and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of automatically-created prosecutor positions pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10071 or the "Prosecution Service Act of 2010" and appointment of public attorneys pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the "Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Amending for the Purpose Pertinent Provisions of Executive Order No. 292, Otherwise Known as the "Administrative Code 1987", As Amended, Granting Special Allowance to PAO Officials and Lawyers, and Providing Funds Therefor", resulting from the creation of these courts, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for prosecutors and public attorneys, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

25
26 The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and
27 released only upon the actual organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.
28

29 **SEC. 4.** Section 14(i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary
30 Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations which are
31 inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.
32

33 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in
34 a newspaper of general circulation.
35

36 Approved,

**House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 11154

(In substitution of House Bill No. 26)

Approved by the Committee on Justice on November 19, 2025

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATARMAN, ALLEN, AND LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Representatives Niko Raul SJ Daza, Atty. Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” R. Luistro, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Atty. Jennifer “Karen” A. Lagbas, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Laarni Lavin Roque, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco, III, King George Leandro Antonio V. Collantes, Loreto S. Amante, Arnan C. Panaligan, Lordan G. Suan, Janice Degamo, Bernadette S. Barbers, Jan “Atty. JP” Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, Keith Micah “Atty Mike” D.L. Tan, Janette L. Garin, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr. Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Jose C. Alvarez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joseph S. Tan, Alexandria “Queenie” Gonzales, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr., Dante S. Garcia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Patricia C. Calderon, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Carlos Andes Loria, Antolin A. Oreta III, Rolando M. Valeriano, Florabel C. Yatco, Antonino B. Roman III, Nelson S. Legacion, Dibu S. Tuan, Amado Carlos A. Bolilla IV, Arlyn P. Ayon, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Jan Franz Norbert Joselito A. Chan, Mark O. Cojuangco, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, Roman T. Romulo and Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE (Primary)

Committee Chairperson: REP. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (Secondary)

Committee Chairperson: REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

OBJECTIVE:

- To ensure the speedy disposition of cases and to declog court dockets.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Creates three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Eighth Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipalities of Catarman, Allen and Laoang, Province of Northern Samar.
- Mandates that 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, and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of automatically-created prosecutor positions pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10071 or the “Prosecution Service Act of 2010” and appointment of public attorneys pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the “Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO), Amending for the Purpose Pertinent Provisions of

Executive Order No. 292, Otherwise Known as the “Administrative Code 1987”, As Amended, Granting Special Allowance to PAO Officials and Lawyers, and Providing Funds Therefor”, resulting from the creation of these courts, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for prosecutors and public attorneys, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

- Provides that the funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.

RELATED LAW:

- **Batas Pambansa Blg. 129**, as amended, otherwise known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”