

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 608

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

Re: House Bill No. 11158

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 72

Sponsors: Representatives Atty. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing and Bernadette S. Barbers

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Justice and Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 72, introduced by Representative Bernadette S. Barbers, entitled:

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) IN SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY ACT OF 1980".

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 11158 entitled:

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SURIGAO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLAVER, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 72, with Representatives Bernadette S. Barbers, 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, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Joseph S. Tan, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Florabel C. Yatco, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, and Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan 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. 11158
(In substitution of House Bill No. 72)

Introduced by Representatives Bernadette S. Barbers, 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, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Joseph S. Tan, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Florabel C. Yatco, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, and Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SURIGAO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLAVER, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(K) 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 Tenth Judicial Region are hereby created and stationed in the Province of Surigao del Norte, as follows:

1. Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Surigao; and
2. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Claver.

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 City of Surigao and the Municipality of Claver, Province of Surigao del Norte.

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.

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.

SEC. 4. Section 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,

**House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 11158

(In substitution of House Bill No. 72)

Approved by the Committee on Justice on November 19, 2025

AN ACT

CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SURIGAO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLAVER, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Representatives Bernadette S. Barbers, 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, Jan “Atty. JP” Padiernos, Oscar G. Malapitan, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Irene G. Labadlabad, Franz S. Pumaren, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, Albert S. Garcia, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Joseph S. Tan, , Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Augustina Dominique “Ditse Tina” C. Pancho, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Brian Poe, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Ricardo S. Cruz Jr., Florabel C. Yatco, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, and Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan

*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 Tenth Judicial Region to be stationed in the City of Surigao and the Municipality of Claver, Province of Surigao del Norte.
- 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.

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”