

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1619



Introduced by HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ

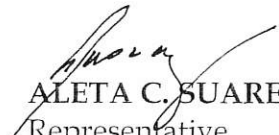
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2004, by virtue of Republic Act No. 9247, the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Catanaun, Quezon Province was created. Since its operation, cases filed in the said Court have been handled by its sole Judge. In 2017, there were 312 cases, or an average of 26 cases per month, filed in the Catanaun Judicial District. Meanwhile, almost the same number of cases was handled by the Judicial District of Gumaca, Quezon which has four (4) RTC branches. Given the high volume of cases assigned, the RTC Catanaun is likely to suffer from clogged dockets. It is feared that delay in the administration of justice is possible and inevitable with this congestion.

In accordance with the constitutional mandate of ensuring the right to speedy disposition of cases, this bill therefore seeks the creation of three (3) additional Regional Trial Court branches to be stationed in the Municipality of Catanaun, Province of Quezon. With the passage of this bill, it is hoped that the creation of the additional RTC branches will help relieve the Court of case congestion.

This bill is re-filed from the 17th Congress.

In view of the foregoing and in the interest of expeditious and competent delivery of justice, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALETA C. SUAREZ
Representative
3rd District, Quezon Province

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1 AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
2 BRANCHES IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE
3 MUNICIPALITY OF CATANAUAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, FURTHER AMENDING
4 FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF THE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129,
5 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS
6 AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Three (3) additional Regional Trial Court branches are hereby created
9 in the Fourth Judicial Region to be stationed at the Municipality of Catanauan, Quezon
10 province.

11 The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created branch of
12 the Regional Trial Court in the Fourth Judicial Region.

13 **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary
14 of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the
15 operationalization of the three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the
16 Municipality of Catanauan, Province of Quezon. The funding of which shall be included
17 in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the
18 Court herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization
19 of the Court and the appointment of its personnel.

20 **SEC. 3.** Section 14 (e) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 129, otherwise known as "The
21 Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules, and
22 regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified
23 accordingly.

1 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
2 in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
3 Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

4 Approved.