

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1513

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

13 JUL 2018

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BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND JUDICIAL SERVICE

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied.

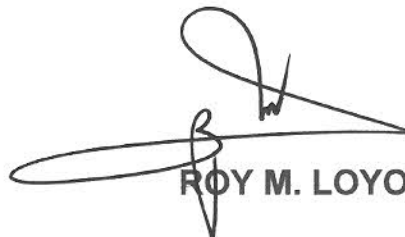
Presently, the Judiciary is under fire for the congested or clogged dockets of the lower courts. The clogged dockets of the courts cause great delay in the disposition of cases. The following are the main causes the congestions:

1. Lack of judges;
2. Heavy inflow of cases in Metro Manila and other cities; and
3. The use of regular judges as assisting or acting judges which has been proven to be unproductive because they do not have sufficient time to devote to the cases in vacant or congested courts since they have their own respective salas to attend to.

The delay in the disposition of cases is precisely what the 1987 Constitution seeks to avoid. Article III, Section 16 of Constitution provides that "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." Thus it is imperative that new positions for the Judiciary should be created.

The solution, therefore, is the creation of "Judges-at-Large" positions. These Judges shall have no permanent salas and can be detailed by the Supreme Court to any court in the Philippines, as public interest may require.

In view of the foregoing consideration, the approval of this bill is strongly recommended.


ROY M. LOYOLA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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**AN ACT CREATING THE POSITIONS FOR JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING
BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
REORGANIZING THE JUDICIARY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 14, Chapter II of B.P. Blg. 129 is hereby amended to include
2 section (n), which will be read as follows:

3 “(n) Fifty (50) positions of Regional Trial Judges-at-Large are created. Said
4 Regional Trial Judges-at-large shall have no permanent salas and can be
5 detailed by the Supreme Court as Acting or Assisting Judges to any Regional
6 Trial Court in the Philippines, as public interest may require. Regional Trial
7 judges-at-large are entitled to the salaries, privileges, allowances,
8 emoluments, benefits, rank and title of a Regional Trial Judge.”

9
10 **SECTION 2.** Section 15, Chapter II of B.P. Blg. 129 is hereby amended to read as
11 follows:

12 “ Section 15. Qualifications – No person shall be appointed Regional Trial
13 Judge or Regional Trial Judge-at-large unless he is natural born citizen of the
14 Philippines, at least thirty-five years of age, and for at least ten years, has
15 been engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines or has held a public
16 office in the Philippines requiring admission to the practice of law as an
17 indispensable requisite.”

1 **SECTION 3.** Section 25, Chapter III of B.P. Blg. 129 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "Section 25. Establishment of Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial
4 Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts and Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large. –
5 There shall be created a Metropolitan Trial Court in each metropolitan area
6 established by law, a Municipal Trial Court in each of the other cities or
7 municipalities, and a Municipal Circuit Trial Court in each circuit
8 comprising such cities and/or municipalities as are grouped together
9 pursuant to law.

10 **Fifty (50) positions of Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large are created. Said**
11 **Municipal Trial judges-at-large shall have no permanent salas and can**
12 **be detailed by the Supreme Court as Acting or Assisting Judges to any**
13 **first level court in the Philippines, as a public interest may require.**
14 **Municipal Trial judges-at-large are entitled to the salaries and all**
15 **privileges, allowance, emoluments, benefits, rank and title of a judge of**
16 **a Municipal Trial Court in Cities."**

17
18 **SECTION 4.** Section 26, Chapter III of B.P. Blg. 129 is hereby amended to read as
19 follows:

20 "Section 26. Qualifications. – No person shall be appointed judge of a
21 Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court, or Municipal Circuit Trial
22 Court or a **Municipal Trial Judge-at-Large** unless he is a natural-born
23 citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty years of age, and for at least five
24 years, has been engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines or has held a
25 public office in the Philippines requiring admission to the practice of law as
26 an indispensable requisite."

27
28 **SECTION 5.** Section 41, Chapter IV of B.P. Blg. 129 is hereby amended to read as
29 follows:

30 "Section 41. Salaries. – Intermediate Appellate Justices, Regional Trial Judges,
31 **Regional Trial Judges-at-Large**, Metropolitan Trial Judges, Municipal
32 Circuit Trial Judges and **Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large** shall receive such
33 compensation and allowances as may be authorized by the President along
34 the guidelines set forth in Letter of Implementation No. 93 pursuant to
35 Presidential Decree No. 985, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1597."

1 **Section 6.** Section 42, Chapter IV of B.P. blg. 129, is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “Section 42. Longevity pay and Displacement Allowance. – A monthly
4 longevity pay equivalent to 5% of the monthly basic pay shall be paid to
5 the Justices and Judges of the courts herein created for each five years of
6 continuous, efficient, and meritorious service rendered in the judiciary:
7 Provided, That in no case shall the total salary of each Justice or Judge
8 concerned, after this longevity pay is added, exceed the salary of the
9 Justice or Judge next in rank.

10 **Regional Trial Judges-at-Large and Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large**
11 **shall receive displacement allowances, which shall cover their**
12 **housing, food, transportation, and other necessary expenses**
13 **incurred during their detail to courts which are outside their places**
14 **of residence. The Displacement allowances shall be determined by**
15 **the Supreme Court upon the recommendation of the Court**
16 **Administrator and the Plantilla Committee.”**

17
18 **SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda or
19 circulars inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
20

21 **SECTION 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general
23 circulation.

Approved,