

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4714**



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill of Rights guarantees that "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies" (Section 16, Article III, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

However, the lack of courts and judges, as well as the heavy workload in the existing salas, have practically conspired to render the constitutional right to speedy disposition of cases an illusory one in many instances.

When this bill was originally filed in the Seventeenth (17th) Congress, the combined caseload of the two (2) existing branches of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Ormoc City, Province of Leyte was found to be 2,187, averaging 1,094 cases per branch (as of April 2016). This was a far cry from the ideal or manageable ratio of 300-450 caseload for each branch. More than three (3) years later, the congestion in the dockets of our RTCs has only worsened, and the existing Municipal Trial Courts (MTCs) have not fared any better.

In view therefore of the urgency of this measure, its early approval is most earnestly sought.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT

CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC), TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF ORMOC, THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE, IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (I) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court for Ormoc City in the Province of Leyte, with seats thereat, are hereby created in the Eight Judicial Region.

Two (2) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), to be stationed in Ormoc City in the Province of Leyte, are hereby created in the Eight Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and the Municipal Trial Court in Cities.

SEC. 3. 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 RTC and MTCC the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Section 14 (i) and Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980" as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations that 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 the general circulation.

Approved,