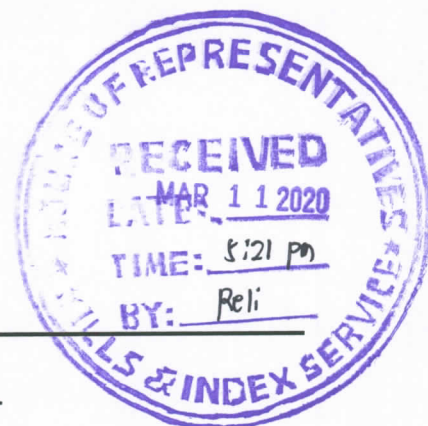


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 291

Submitted by the Committee on Justice on MAR 11 2020

Re: House Bill No. 6589

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5527, 5584 and 5867

Sponsors: Representatives Vicente "Ching" S. E. Veloso III, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Doy C. Leachon and Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Justice, to which were referred House Bill No. 5527 introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, entitled:

"AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED";

House Bill No. 5584 introduced by Rep. Paulino "Doy" Salvador C. Leachon, entitled:

"AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED"; and

House Bill No. 5867 introduced by Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, entitled:

"AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980"

6589

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. _____
entitled:

"AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED"

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5527, 5584 and 5867 with Representatives Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Doy C. Leachon, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Vicente "Ching" S. E. Veloso III, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Peter John D. Calderon, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun, Henry S. Oaminal, Pablo John F. Garcia, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon and Michael T. Defensor as the authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



VICENTE "CHING" S.E. VELOSO III
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6589

(in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5527, 5584 and 5867)

Introduced by Representatives Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Doy C. Leachon, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Vicente "Ching" S. E. Veloso III, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Peter John D. Calderon, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun, Henry S. Oaminal, Pablo John F. Garcia, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon and Michael T. Defensor

AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 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. Section 19 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended by Republic Act No. 7691, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 19. *Jurisdiction* **OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS** in civil cases. — Regional Trial Courts shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction:

(1) In all civil actions in which the subject of the litigation is incapable of pecuniary estimation;

(2) In all civil actions which involve the title to, or possession of, real property, or any interest therein, where the assessed value of the property involved exceeds [Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or for civil actions in Metro Manila, where such value exceeds Fifty thousand pesos (50,000.00)] **FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00)**, except actions for forcible entry into and unlawful detainer of lands or buildings, original jurisdiction over which is conferred upon the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts;

(3) In all actions in admiralty and maritime jurisdiction where the demand or claims exceed [One hundred thousand pesos P100,000.00), or, in Metro Manila, where such demand or claim

exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos (200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00);**

(4) In all matters of probate, both testate and intestate, where the gross value of the estate exceeds [One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in probate matters in Metro Manila, where such gross value exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos (200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00);**

xxx

(8) In all other cases in which the demand, exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs or the value of the property in controversy exceeds [One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in such other cases in Metro Manila, where the demand, exclusive of the abovementioned items exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos (200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)."**

SEC. 2. Section 33 of the same law, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 33. *Jurisdiction of Metropolitan Trial Courts, **MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES**, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts in Civil Cases.* — Metropolitan Trial Courts, **MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES**, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall exercise:

(1) Exclusive original jurisdiction over civil actions and probate proceedings, testate and intestate, including the grant of provisional remedies in proper cases, where the value of the personal property, estate, or amount of the demand does not exceed [Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) or, in Metro Manila where such personal property, estate, or amount of the demand does not exceed Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)**, exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs, the amount of which must be specifically alleged: *Provided*, That interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs shall be included in the determination of the filing fees: *Provided, further*, That where there are several claims or causes of actions between the same or different parties, embodied in the same complaint, the amount of the demand shall be the totality of the claims in all the causes of action, irrespective of whether the causes of action arose out of the same or different transactions;

xxx

(3) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil actions which involve title to, or possession of, real property, or any interest therein where the assessed value of the property or interest therein does not exceed [Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or, in civil

actions in Metro Manila, where such assessed value does not exceed Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] **FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00)** exclusive of interest, damage of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs: *Provided*, That in cases of land not declared for taxation purposes, the value of such property shall be determined by the assessed value of the adjacent lots.

(4) EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME ACTIONS WHERE THE DEMAND OR CLAIM DOES NOT EXCEED TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00).

SEC. 3. Section 34 of the same law, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 34. Delegated Jurisdiction in Cadastral and Land Registration Cases. – Metropolitan Trial Courts, **MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES**, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts may be assigned by the Supreme Court to hear and determine cadastral or land registration cases covering lots where there is no controversy or opposition, or contested lots [where] the value of which [does not exceed [One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)]] **SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT AS IT SEES FIT IN THE EXIGENCY OF THE SERVICE**, [such value] to be ascertained by the affidavit of the claimant or by agreement of the respective claimants if there are more than one, or from the corresponding tax declaration of the real property. [Their decisions in these cases shall be appealable in the same manner as decisions of the Regional Trial Courts.]"

SEC. 4. Five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act and every five (5) years thereafter, the jurisdictional amounts mentioned in Sec. 19 (2) and Sec. 33 (3) of Batas Pambansa Big. 129, as amended by this Act, shall be increased by One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), while the jurisdictional amounts mentioned in Sec. 19 (3), (4) and (8) and Sec. 33 (1) and (4), of the same law, as amended by this Act, shall be increased by Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

SEC. 5. The provisions of this Act shall apply to all civil cases that have not yet reached the pre-trial stage. However, by agreement of all the parties, civil cases cognizable by the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be transferred from the Regional Trial Courts to the latter. The Supreme Court shall define the administrative procedure for the transfer of such cases to the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts.

SEC. 6. If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
2 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3

Approved,

House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6589

(in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5527, 5584 and 5867)
(Approved by the Committee on March 3, 2020)

“AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED”

Introduced by: Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Doy C. Leachon, Vicente “Ching” S. E. Veloso III and Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo

*Committee Referral: **Committees on Justice**
Committee Chairpersons: **Reps. VICENTE “CHING” S.E. VELOSO III***

OBJECTIVES:

- Declog the dockets of the Regional Trial Courts and increase the efficiency in the administration of justice in our courts.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Increases the jurisdictional amounts in civil cases that are cognizable by the first-level courts, namely the Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTC), Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MTCC), Municipal Trial Courts (MTC), and the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC);
- Redefines the jurisdiction of courts in civil cases in order for the courts to adapt the current value of our currency and the value of land and other property;
- Provides for an incremental increase in these amounts, such that every five years upon the effectivity of the law, the P400,000 threshold will be increased by P100,000, while the P 2 Million threshold will be increased by P500,000.

RELATED LAWS:

- Batas Pambansa Blg. 129
- R.A. 7691