

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2523



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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

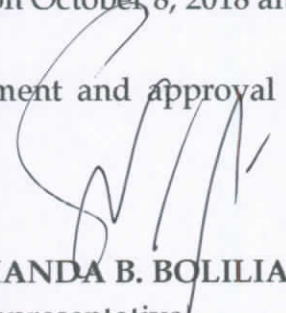
Under Section 16 of Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." However, the twin problems of docket congestion and case delay continue to afflict the nation's trial courts as the volume of cases filed consistently rise. As the population increases, it pushes the judge-to-people ratio down to the lowest level. The quality of justice is, therefore, adversely affected.

The problem of congestion is also evident in the regional trial courts. The Regional Trial Court (RTC) in the Municipality of Rosario, Batangas Province serves six municipalities, namely: Ibaan, Lobo, Padre Garcia, Rosario, San Juan, and Taysan, which have a combined population of more than 400,000. The RTC of the Fourth Judicial Branch of Batangas currently has 1200 criminal cases and 300 civil cases being handled by 13 court employees including one judge. This is a far cry from the ideal or manageable ratio of 300 cases for each branch. On the basis of this ratio and considering the annual rate of population growth, at least five (5) additional branches of the court must be created in the near future for the Fourth Judicial Branch.

Considering the equitable distribution of scarce resources, this bill only seeks to create two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Fourth Judicial Region to be stationed in the Municipalities of Rosario and San Juan, Batangas Province. The additional branches can only achieve so much in the timely resolution of cases but it will surely reduce docket congestion and ultimately speed up case disposition.

This bill was previously approved by the House on October 8, 2018 and received by the Senate the following day.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
LIANDA B. BOLILIA  
Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> District, Batangas

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AN ACT

CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ROSARIO AND SAN JUAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED

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

1        **SECTION 1.** Two (2) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be  
2        stationed in the Municipalities of Rosario and San Juan, Province of Batangas, is hereby  
3        created in the Fourth Judicial Region.

4        The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly-created branches  
5        of the Regional Trial Court.

6        **SEC. 2.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary  
7        of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the  
8        operationalization of the additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed in  
9        the Municipalities of Rosario and San Juan, Province of Batangas, the funding of which  
10       shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11       **SEC. 3.** Section 14(e) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "the  
12       Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and  
13       regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified  
14       accordingly.

15       **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
16       *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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19       Approved,