

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1219



Introduced by Honorable Jerry P.

Treñas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to reapportion the lone legislative district and the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Iloilo.

Iloilo City was formally declared a city in 1936 by virtue of Commonwealth Act Number 57, otherwise known as the "Charter of Iloilo City." Since its enactment, the Iloilo City charter has been amended four times, by Commonwealth Act Nos. 158 and 604, and Republic Act Nos. 276 and 1209. During the 15th Congress of the House of Representatives, I authored House Bill No. 3474 which aimed to redistrict Iloilo City into two Congressional Districts. It was passed on third and final reading by the House of Representatives but the Senate failed to pass it before the end of the 15th Congress.

The Lone District of Iloilo City is composed of the city districts of Jaro, Lapaz, Mandurriao, Molo, Arevalo, City Proper and the sub-district of Lapuz. This bill proposes the Lone District of Iloilo City to be divided into two legislative districts, namely: (a) the First legislative district which is to be composed of Jaro, Lapaz and Mandurriao; and (b) the Second legislative district which is to be composed of City Proper, Molo, Arevalo and Lapuz.

The addition of another legislative district in Iloilo City is not only necessary but long overdue. It is about time that Iloilo City, which has long been acknowledged as the cultural, commercial, academic, religious and governmental center in Western Visayas, gets another legislative district. Other "Commonwealth-era" cities like Manila, Cebu, Davao and Zamboanga already have multiple districts.

The creation of a second Legislative District of Iloilo City complies with all the parameters set forth by the Constitution. The Supreme Court held, in the recent case of *Aquino vs. COMELEC*, that "Section 5(3), Article VI of the Constitution requires a city to have a minimum population of 250,000 to be entitled to a representative, it does not have to increase its population by another 250,000 to be entitled to an additional district."¹ Based on the latest

¹*Aquino, et al. vs. COMELEC*, G.R. No. 189793 (April 7, 2010).

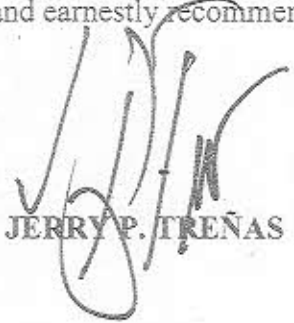
1 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) National Census (2015), the City of Iloilo has a population
2 of 447,992.²
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4 There is no exact number of additional inhabitants dictated by law that is necessary to
5 create a new legislative district in a city. Considering that progressive cities in the country have
6 been granted additional legislative districts, and taking to account that Congress may pass laws
7 for the reapportionment of legislative districts³, the reapportionment of the lone district of Iloilo
8 City is in order.
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10 Moreover, the allocation of two legislative districts for a city with a population of less
11 than 500,000 is not without precedence. The Supreme Court allowed the City of Makati to have
12 two legislative districts despite having a population of 450,000.⁴ The High Tribunal explained
13 that a city with a population of 250,000 is entitled to at least one representative, but an additional
14 population of 250,000 is not necessary in order for the city to gain an additional legislative
15 district.
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17 It must also be noted that the City of Marikina was granted two legislative districts.
18 Republic Act 9364 was passed in 2006, which reapportioned Marikina City into two new
19 legislative districts.⁵ The combined population of the two legislative districts is only 424,150.
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21 In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.
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JERRY P. TREÑAS

² Latest PSA data as of August 1, 2015 based on the 2015 Census, accessible at
<http://psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-philippine-population-2015-census-population> (released on May 19, 2016)

³ As held in *Tobias vs. COMELEC*, G.R. No. 114783 (December 8, 1994).

⁴ *Mariano, Jr. vs. COMELEC*, G.R. No. 118577 (March 7, 1995)

⁵ Republic Act 9364 (December 15, 2006)

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AN ACT

REAPPORTIONING THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT AND THE
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF ILOILO

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

Section 1. *Legislative Districts.* – The City of Iloilo shall have two (2) legislative districts to commence in the next national elections after the effectivity of this Act. Henceforth, all barangays comprising the city districts of Jaro, namely, the forty-two barangays of: Arguelles, Balabago, Balantang, Benedicto, Bito-on, Buhang, Buntatala, Calubihan, Camalig, CC El 98, Cuartero, Cubay, Democracia, Desamparados, Dungon-A, Dungon-B, Fajardo, Fatima, Javellana, Lanit, Lopez Jaena, Luna, Lady of Lourdes, Maria Cristina, M.H. Del Pilar, Montinola, M.V. Hechanova, Sambag, San Isidro, San Jose, San Pedro, San Vicente, San Roque, Seminario, Simon Ledesma, Sta. Isabel-Libertad, Tabuc Suba, Tacas, Tagbac, Taytay Zone II, Quintin Salas, and Ungka; Lapaz, comprising of the twenty-five barangays of: Aguinaldo, Divinagracia, Rizal, Jereos, Burgos, Gustilo, Hinactacan, Banuyao, San Isidro, Ticud, Ingore, Caingin, Magdalo, Mac Arthur, San Nicolas, Railway, Tabuc Suba, Baldoza, Nabitasan, Bantud,

1 Luna, Magsaysay Village, Lopez Jaena Sur, Lopez Jaena Norte, and Laguda; and Mandurriao,
2 composed of the following eighteen barangays: Airport, Bakhaw, Bolilao, Calahunan, Dungon
3 C, Guzman, Hibao-An Norte, Hibao-An Sur, Nava-is, Onate De Leon, Pali, PHHC Block 17,
4 PHHC Block 22 NHA, Q. Abeto, San Rafael, Sta. Rosa, Tabucan, and Taft North, shall compose
5 the first district, while all barangays comprising City Proper, comprising of the forty-five
6 barangays of: Arsenal Aduana, BaybayTanza, BonifacioTanza, Concepcion-Montes, Danao, Ed
7 Ganzon, Flores, General Hughes-Montes, Gloria, Hipodromo, Inday, Jalandoni-Bagumbayan,
8 Jalandoni Wilson, Kahirupan, Kauswagan, Legaspi Dela Rama, Liberation, Magsaysay, Mabolo
9 Delgado, Malipayon-Delgado, Maria Clara, Monica Blumentritt, Muelle Loney-Montes, Nonoy,
10 Ortiz, Pres. Roxas, Osmeña, Rima Rizal, Rizal Estanzuela, Rizal Ibarra, Rizal Palapala I, Rizal
11 Palapala II, Roxas Village, Sampaguita, San Agustin, San Felix, San Jose, Santo Rosario-Duran,
12 Tanza-Esperanza, Timawa Tanza I, Timawa Tanza II, Veterans Village, Villa Anita, Yulo-
13 Arroyo, and Zamora-Melliza; Molo, inclusive of the twenty-five barangays of: Avanceña,
14 Boulevard, Calumpang, Cocherro, Compania Central, East Baluarte, East Timawa, Infante,
15 Kasing-Kasing, Katinglingban, North Baluarte, North Fundidor, North San Jose, Poblacion,
16 Salvacion Habog-Habog, San Antonio, San Juan, San Pedro, South Baluarte, South Fundidor,
17 South San Jose, Taal, Tap-oc, West Habog-Habog, and West Timawa; Arevalo, composed of the
18 thirteen barangays of: Bonifacio, Calapran, Dulonan, Mohon, Quezon, San Jose, Santa Felomina,
19 Sooc, Santa Cruz, Santo Domingo, Santo Nino Norte, Santo Nino Sur, and Yulo Drive; and
20 Lapuz, inclusive of the following twelve barangays: Lapuz Norte, Loboc, Lapuz Sur, Progreso,
21 Mansaya, Libertad, Jalandoni Estate, Bo. Obrero, Sinikway, Don Esteban, Punong, and Alalasan;
22 shall compose the second district.

23 Section 2. *The SangguniangPanlungsod.* – The Sangguniang Panlungsod, the
24 legislative body of the City, shall be composed of the city vice mayor as the presiding officer, the
25 sangguniang panlungsod members from each district, composing of seven (7) members per
26 district, who shall be elected in the district where they reside, the president of the city chapter of
27 the *liga ng mga barangay*, the president of the *panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang*
28 *kabataan* and other sectoral representatives, as members.

29 Section 3. *Incumbent Representative and SangguniangPanlungsod Members.* – The
30 incumbent representative and sangguniang panlungsod members of the City of Iloilo shall

1 continue to hold office until the new representatives and sangguniang panlungsod members of
2 the City shall have been elected and qualified.

3 Section 4. *Rules and Regulations.*— The Commission on Elections shall issue the
4 necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

5 Section 5. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
7 valid and subsisting.

8 Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* — The provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 57, as
9 amended by Commonwealth Act Nos. 158 and 604, Republic Act Nos. 276 and 1209 and all
10 other laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
11 modified accordingly.

12 Section 7. *Effectivity.* —This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the
13 Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,
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