

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6176



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL T. SAGARBARRIA**

Explanatory Note

Paragraph (1), Section 5, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution states that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of not more than two hundred fifty members, unless otherwise fixed by law, who shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities, and the Metropolitan Manila Area in accordance with the number of their respective inhabitants, and on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio..."

Paragraph (3) of the same section further provides that "each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory. Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative."

Paragraph (4) of the same section also states that "within three years following the return of every census, the Congress shall make a reapportionment of legislative districts based on the standards provided in this section."

At present the province of Negros Oriental is composed of three legislative districts, namely:

First Legislative District: Canlaon City, Guihulngan City, Municipality of Ayungon, Municipality of Bindoy, Municipality of Jimalalud, Municipality of La Libertad, Municipality of Tayasan, Municipality of Vallehermoso, and Municipality of Jimalalud.

Second Legislative District: Bais City, Dumaguete City, Tanjay City, Municipality of Amlan, Municipality of Pamplona, Municipality of San Jose, and Municipality of Sibulan.

Three Legislative District: Bayawan City, Municipality of Bacong, Municipality of Basay, Municipality of Dauin, Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Municipality of Siaton, Municipality of Valencia, and Municipality of Zamboanguita.

Noteworthy to mention is at the time of the passage of the Philippine Constitution in 1987, Negros Oriental had a population of around Nine Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two (925,272) people using the 1990 Census of Population, Today, exactly thirty two years since the 1987 Philippine Constitution was ordained, the population of the province has grown by leaps and bounds, in that based on the 2015 Census of Population of the Philippine Statistics Authority, Negros Oriental has a total number of inhabitants of One Million Three Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five (1,354,995), or a marked increase of Sixty-Eight Percent (68%). It must be noted that Five Hundred Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three (505,463) of these inhabitants reside in the Second District.

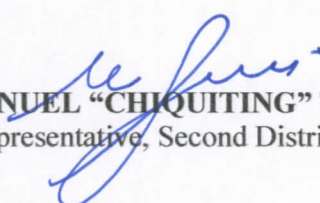
This latest information on the population census of the province, which still dates to 2015, therefore impress a case of disproportion in the entitlement of the province for proportionate representation in the House of Representatives since the current assignment of seats therefore does not augurs well with the intent and established standards set forth in paragraph (3), Section 5, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution. Conversely, Negros Oriental, given the obtaining circumstances on its population, is largely underrepresented in the Lower House of Congress and, therefore, its interest not fully promoted and protected.

Hence, this proposed bill is designed to address this patent inequity of representation by providing for a realistic reapportionment of Negros Oriental with the creation of a fourth legislative district.

Fourth Legislative District: consisting municipalities of Pamplona and Mabinay, Tanjay City, and Bais City.

The redistricting of the area will provide the constituents with proper and effective representation in the House of Representatives to meet their respective and distinct needs and requirements.

Thus, with the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this proposed piece of legislation is highly recommended.


HON. MANUEL "CHIQUITING" T. SAGARBARRIA
Representative, Second District of Negros Oriental

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL T. SAGARBARRIA**

AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE PROVINCE OF
NEGROS ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE FOURTH (4th) LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT

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

SECTION 1: *Fourth (4th) Legislative District in the Province of Negros Oriental-*
There is hereby created an additional legislative district in the Province of Negros Oriental to be known as the Fourth (4th) Legislative District by reapportioning the current Second (2nd) Legislative District to commence in the next national and local elections after the effectivity of this Act. Henceforth, the following cities and municipalities shall comprise the Fourth Legislative District, to wit:

1. Municipality of Pamplona
2. City of Tanjay
3. City of Bais
4. Municipality of Mabinay

SECTION 2: The current Second (2nd) Legislative District of the Province of Negros Oriental, which shall continue to be designated as such, shall be composed of the following municipalities, to wit:

1. City of Dumaguete
2. Municipality of Sibulan
3. Municipality of San Jose
4. Municipality of Amlan

SECTION 3: The incumbent Representative of the Second (2nd) Legislative District of the Province of Negros Oriental shall continue to represent the said legislative district until the new representatives of the Second (2nd) and Fourth (4th) Legislative Districts shall have been elected and qualified.

SECTION 4: *Rules and Regulations* - The Commission on Elections shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 5: *Repealing Clause* – All laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6: *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,