

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. B. No. 6168

Introduced by **HON. ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA**

AN ACT
AMENDING RA 10303, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT CREATING A
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA TO BE
STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CASIGURAN"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 55-2017 issued by the Supreme Court, the Regional Trial Court of Casiguran Branch 101 exercises territorial jurisdiction over the Municipalities of Dilasag, Casiguran, Dinalungan and Dipaculao.

However, Republic Act No.10303 expressly states that the Regional Trial Court of Casiguran Branch 101 will be stationed at the Municipality of Casiguran which is around four hours away from the provincial jail of Aurora. The long hours of travel from the provincial jail to the Municipality of Casiguran posts a great threat to the security of the police personnel assisting the detainees who will attend court hearings.

Furthermore, the Public Attorney's Office of DICADI is located in the Municipality of Dinalungan, which is one hour away from the Municipality of Casiguran while the Provincial Prosecutor's Office is also situated in Baler, Aurora which is also four hours away from the designated station of RTC Casiguran.

The Municipality of Dinalungan is only two hours away from the provincial jail of Aurora and Provincial Prosecutor's Office. Furthermore, the Municipality of Dinalungan is strategically located in the center of the four municipalities within which the RTC Casiguran exercises territorial jurisdiction.

This bill aims to amend Sections 1 and 2 of RA 10303, to indicate that the Regional Trial Court created in the said law shall be stationed in any of the Municipalities within its territorial jurisdiction and not specifically in the Municipality of Casiguran.

Approval of this measure is therefore earnestly requested.


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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

Section 1. Section 1 of RA 10303 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"There is hereby created a branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Third Judicial Region to be stationed in any of the Municipalities within its territorial jurisdiction in the Province of Aurora.
The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created Regional Trial Court branch in the Third Judicial Region."

Section 2. Section 2 of RA 10303 is hereby amended to read as follows:
"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 Regional Trial Court branch to be stationed in any of the Municipalities within its territorial jurisdiction in the Province of Aurora, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the Court herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the Court and the appointment of its personnel."

Section 3. The provisions of existing laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 4. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,