

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Seventeenth Congress**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3749**



Introduced by **Representative CELSO L. LOBREGAT**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to create four (4) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Zamboanga City, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 10301 approved into law on November 15, 2012 which further amended Section 14, Paragraph (J) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980.

When Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 was enacted by Congress, the number of Regional trial Courts and Municipal Trial Courts in Zamboanga City has been pegged at six (6) and four (4) branches, respectively. In 1980, the population of Zamboanga City was less than 200,000.

On November 15, 2012 or thirty two (32) years after, Republic Act No. 10301 was enacted increasing by four (4) the number of RTCs in Zamboanga City. However, despite the big volume of the number of cases pending, the additional four (4) courts are not yet totally organized and operational.

The latest survey by the National Census and Statistics Office shows that the population of Zamboanga City has increased to 860,000. Thus, due to the increase of population coupled with the increase in the volume of cases filed, the present court dockets have been clogged and this has resulted in the unreasonable delay in the resolution of cases to the prejudice of the litigants.

Currently, the existing six (6) Regional Trial Courts, with corresponding branches number, the following are the latest volume of cases, raffled and pending to these courts, as follows:

RTC Branch 12 -----	314
RTC Branch 13-----	3,274
RTC Branch 14 -----	653
RTC Branch 15 -----	829
RTC Branch 16 -----	681
RTC Branch 17 -----	480

**Total: 6,231**

With a total of 6,231 cases, even if the four (4) additional Regional Trial Courts will be operational, the average case load would be 623 cases. As stated by Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco, the only way to expedite case processing and adjudication is to give each judge a manageable load of 300 cases.

Thus, in consonance with the provision of Section 16 Article III of the 1987 Constitution which provides that, "*All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies*", the proposed measure will address the need to decongest the court dockets and promote speedy disposition of cases filed in the existing courts of Zamboanga City.

Therefore, in the interest of timely and effective administration of justice, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**CELSO L. LOBREGAT**  
Representative  
Zamboanga City, 1<sup>st</sup> District

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 10301 WHICH CREATED FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, WHICH FURTHER AMENDED BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** Four (4) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court to be stationed at Zamboanga city are hereby created in the Ninth Judicial Region.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the newly-created branches of the Regional Trial court in the Ninth Judicial Region.

**SECTION 2.** 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 four (4) additional branches of the Regional trial court to be stationed at Zamboanga City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the Courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the Courts and the appointment of its personnel.

**SECTION 3.** All laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,