



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5774

Introduced by Representative Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to introduce amendments to Republic Act No. 11243, entitled "*An Act Reapportioning the First Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato thereby Creating the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City.*"

While the intent of Republic Act No. 11243, which was deliberate upon and approved by the 17th Congress, was to create the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City, its letters needs to be aligned with existing laws to avoid ambiguity and confusion.

Under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11243, General Santos City was denoted as the Third Legislative District of the Province of South Cotabato."

Section 103 of Republic Act No. 5412, otherwise known as the *Charter of the City of General Santos*, which took effect on June 15, 1968, expressly provides that the voters of the General Santos City shall not be qualified and entitled to vote in the elections for provincial officials of the Province of South Cotabato. Additionally, the General Santos City was classified and became highly urbanized city way back in September 5, 1988. Thus, the city is completely independent from the Province of South Cotabato from fiscal, administrative, political and legal standpoints.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES

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HOUSE BILL NO. **5774**

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AN ACT
SEPARATING THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS FROM THE FIRST
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH
COTABATO TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
OF GENERAL SANTOS CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11243, ENTITLED “AN ACT REAPPORTIONING
THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH
COTABATO THEREBY CREATING THE LONE LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT OF GENERAL SANTOS CITY”

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11243 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. *Lone Legislative District.* – The City of General Santos is separated from the first legislative district of the Province of South Cotabato to constitute the lone legislative district of the City of General Santos which shall commence in the next national elections after the effectivity of this act.”

Sec. 2. Section 2 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. *Holdover.* – The incumbent representative of the first legislative district of the Province of South Cotabato shall continue to represent the City of General Santos until the new

representative of the lone legislative district of the city of general
santos shall have been elected and qualified.”

Sec. 3. ***Rules and Regulations.*** – The Commission on Elections shall
issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within thirty
(30) days after its effectivity.

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

Approved,