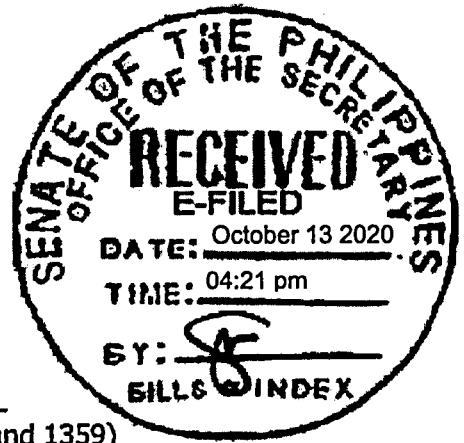


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE *S.B. No.* 1886  
(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1353 and 1359)

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Prepared by the Committee on Justice and  
Human Rights with Senators Lapid, Pacquiao and Gordon as authors

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**AN ACT**  
**FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 19 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the  
2 "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," As Amended, is hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 "Section 19. *Jurisdiction of the Regional Trial Courts in Civil Cases.* –  
5 Regional Trial Courts shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction:

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7 (2) In all civil actions which involve the title to, or possession of, real  
8 property, or any interest therein, where the assessed value [~~of the~~  
9 ~~property involved~~] exceeds [~~Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or for~~

1 ~~civil actions in Metro Manila, where such value exceeds Fifty thousand~~  
2 ~~pesos (P50,000.00)]~~ **FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS**  
3 **(P400,000.00)**, except for forcible entry into and unlawful detainer of  
4 lands or buildings, original jurisdiction over which is conferred upon the  
5 Metropolitan Trial Courts, and Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal  
6 Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts;

7 (3) In all actions in admiralty and maritime jurisdiction where the demand  
8 or claims exceeds [~~One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in~~  
9 ~~Metro Manila, where such demand or claim exceeds Two hundred~~  
10 ~~thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS**  
11 **(P2,000,000.00)**;~~

12 (4) In all matters of probate, both testate and Intestate, where the gross  
13 value of the estate exceeds [~~One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)~~  
14 ~~or, in probate matters in Metro Manila where such gross value exceeds~~  
15 ~~Two Hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS**  
16 **(P2,000,000.00)**;~~

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18 (8) In all other cases in which the demand, exclusive of interest, damages  
19 of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs or the  
20 value of the property in controversy exceeds [~~One hundred thousand~~  
21 ~~pesos (P100,000.00) or, in such other cases in Metro Manila, where the~~  
22 ~~demand exclusive of the abovementioned items exceeds Two Hundred~~

1            thousand peses ~~(P200,000.00)]~~    **TWO MILLION PESOS**  
2            **(P2,000,000.00)."**

3    **SECTION 2.** Section 33 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

4    "Section 33. *Jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in*  
5    *Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts in Civil Cases.* –  
6    Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and  
7    Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall exercise:

8            (1) Exclusive original jurisdiction over civil actions and probate proceedings,  
9            testate and intestate, including the grant of provisional remedies in proper  
10            cases, where the value of the personal property, estate, or amount of the  
11            demand does not exceed [~~One hundred thousand peses (P100,000.00), or~~  
12            ~~in Metro Manila where such personal property, estate, or amount of the~~  
13            ~~demand does not exceed Two hundred thousand peses (P200,000.00)]~~  
14            **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)**, exclusive of interest, damages  
15            of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs, the amount  
16            of which must be specifically alleged: *Provided*, That interest, damages of  
17            whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs shall be  
18            included in the determination of the filing fees: *Provided, further*, That where  
19            there are several claims or causes of actions between the same or different  
20            parties, embodied in the same complaint, the amount of the demand shall  
21            be the totality of the claims in all the causes of action, irrespective of whether  
22            the causes of action arose out of the same or different transactions;

23            xxx

1 (3) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil actions which involve title to, or  
2 possession of, real property, or any interest therein where the assessed value  
3 of the property or any interest therein does not exceed [~~Twenty thousand~~  
4 ~~pesos (P20,000.00) or, in civil actions in Metro Manila, where such assessed~~  
5 ~~value does not exceed Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] **FOUR**  
6 **HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00)** exclusive on interest,  
7 damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs:  
8 *Provided, That* in cases of land not declared for taxation purposes, the value  
9 of such property shall be determined by the assessed value of the adjacent  
10 lots.~~

11 **(4) EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN ADMIRALTY AND**  
12 **MARITIME ACTIONS WHERE THE DEMAND OR CLAIM DOES NOT**  
13 **EXCEED TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)."**

14 **SECTION 3.** Five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act and every five (5) years  
15 thereafter, the jurisdictional amounts mentioned in Sec. 19 (2), (3), (4) and (8), and  
16 Sec. 33 (1), (3) and (4) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended by this Act, shall be  
17 increased by One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), unless otherwise provided  
18 for by law.

19 **SECTION 4.** The provisions of this Act shall apply to all civil cases that have not yet  
20 reached the pre-trial stage as of the date of the effectivity hereof. However, by  
21 agreement of all the parties, civil cases cognizable by the Metropolitan Trial Courts,  
22 Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial  
23 Courts by the provisions of this Act may be transferred from the Regional Trial Courts

1 to the latter. The Supreme Court shall define the administrative procedure for the  
2 transfer of cases affected by the redefinition of jurisdiction to the Metropolitan Trial  
3 Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit  
4 Trial Courts.

5 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** –If any provision of this Act is declared  
6 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
7 provisions thereof.

8 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, and orders inconsistent with the  
9 provisions of this Act shall be considered amended or modified accordingly.

10 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
11 its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general  
12 circulation.

*Approved,*