



S E N A T E

S. No. 2594

(In substitution of Senate Bill No. 2215, taking into consideration House Bill No. 8257)

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PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS PADILLA, TOLENTINO, DELA ROSA, GATCHALIAN, AND VILLANUEVA AS AUTHORS THEREOF

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AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL SHARIFA JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND TWELVE (12) SHARIFA CIRCUIT COURTS THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND 150 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES”, AS AMENDED

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

- 1           SECTION 1. Article 138 of Presidential Decree No.  
2   1083, otherwise known as the “Code of Muslim Personal  
3   Laws of the Philippines”, is hereby amended to read as  
4   follows:

1           “Article 138. Shari’a judicial districts. –  
2           [Five] EIGHT special judicial districts, each to  
3           have one Shari’a District Court presided over  
4           by one judge, are constituted as follows:

5           (a) The First Shari’a District shall  
6           comprise the Province of Sulu;

7           (b) The Second Shari’a District, the  
8           Province of Tawi-Tawi;

9           (c) The Third Shari’a District, the  
10          Province of Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte and  
11          Zamboanga del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog,  
12          Pagadian and Zamboanga;

13          (d) The Fourth Shari’a District, the  
14          provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del  
15          Sur, and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi; [~~and~~]

16          (e) The Fifth Shari’a District, the  
17          Provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and  
18          Sultan Kudarat, and the City of Cotabato[-];

19          (F) THE SIXTH SHARI’A DISTRICT, THE  
20          PROVINCES OF BUKIDNON, MISAMIS

1           ORIENTAL,       MISAMIS       OCCIDENTAL,  
2           CAMIGUIN, THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO,  
3           AND THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI  
4           AND XIII;

5                   (G) THE SEVENTH SHARIFA DISTRICT,  
6           THE PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII,  
7           AND VIII; AND

8                   (H) THE EIGHTH SHARIFA DISTRICT,  
9           NATIONAL       CAPITAL       REGION,       THE  
10          PROVINCES       WITHIN       CORDILLERA  
11          ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, AND REGIONS I,  
12          II, III, IV-A, V, AND MIMAROPA.”

13           SEC. 2. Article 147 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is  
14          hereby amended as follows:

15                   “Article 147. Permanent stations; offices. –

16           (1) The Shari’a District Courts shall have their  
17           respective permanent stations in the following  
18           places:

19                   (a) First Shari’a District, Jolo, Sulu;

20                   (b) Second Shari’a District, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi;

1 (c) Third Shari'a District, Zamboanga City;

2 (d) Fourth Shari'a District, Marawi City;

3 (e) Fifth Shari'a District, Cotabato City;

4 (F) SIXTH SHARIFA DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY;

5 (G) SEVENTH SHARIFA DISTRICT, CEBU

6 CITY; AND

7 (H) EIGHTH SHARIFA DISTRICT, MANILA

8 CITY.”

9 SEC. 3. Article 150 of Presidential Decree No. 1083 is

10 hereby amended as follows:

11 “Article 150. Where established. –

12 (1) Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be established

13 as follows:

14 (a) Six such courts in the Province of Sulu;

15 (b) Eight in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;

16 (c) Ten in and for the Provinces of

17 Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga

18 del Sur, and the Cities of Dipolog, Pagadian,

19 and Zamboanga;

1 (d) Twelve in and for the Provinces of  
2 Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur and the  
3 Cities of Iligan and Marawi;

4 (e) Fifteen in and for the Province of  
5 Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan  
6 Kudarat and the City of Cotabato[-];

7 (F) FIVE FOR THE PROVINCES OF  
8 BUKIDNON, MISAMIS ORIENTAL,  
9 MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, CAMIGUIN, THE  
10 CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, AND THE  
11 PROVINCES WITHIN REGIONS XI AND  
12 XIII, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF  
13 VALENCIA, CITY OF GINGOOG, CITY OF  
14 OZAMIS, CITY OF MAMBAJAO, AND CITY  
15 OF CAGAYAN DE ORO;

16 (G) THREE FOR THE PROVINCES  
17 WITHIN REGIONS VI, VII, AND VIII, TO BE  
18 STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CEBU, CITY  
19 OF TACLOBAN, AND ILOILO CITY; AND

1 (H) FOUR FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
2 REGION, THE PROVINCES WITHIN  
3 CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION,  
4 REGIONS I, II, III, IV-A, V, AND MIMAROPA, TO  
5 BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MANILA,  
6 CITY OF TAGUIG, CITY OF DAGUPAN, AND  
7 CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA.

8 (2) The territorial jurisdiction of each of  
9 the Shari'a Circuit Courts shall be fixed by the  
10 Supreme Court on the basis of the geographical  
11 contiguity AND ACCESSIBILITY of the  
12 municipalities and cities concerned and their  
13 Muslim population.”

14 SEC. 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
15 immediately include in the Court's program the  
16 operationalization of the newly created Shari'a Judicial  
17 Districts, Shari'a District Courts, and Shari'a Circuit  
18 Courts.

19 SEC. 5. The funds necessary for the implementation  
20 of this Act, including appropriations for personnel services

1 such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for judges and  
2 court personnel, court operations under maintenance and  
3 other operating expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls  
4 of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court  
5 staff, shall be included in the annual General  
6 Appropriations Act.

7       SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or  
8 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the  
9 remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected  
10 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

11       SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential  
12 decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction,  
13 rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this  
14 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15       SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after  
16 fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the  
17 *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,