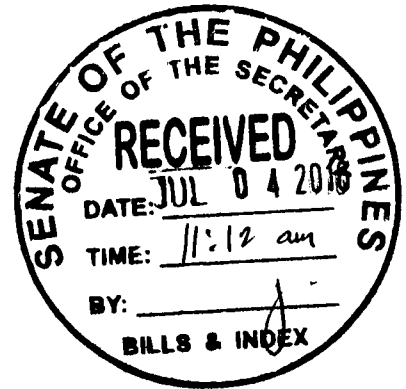


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



S E N A T E  
S. B. No. 297

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT WITH SEATS AT CALAMBA,  
LAGUNA IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA  
BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY  
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

One perennial problem in our justice system is the clogging of our court's dockets. This may worsen and the backlog may continue to grow unless we increase the number of courts in proportion to corresponding demographic increases. New courts will help speed up the administration of justice in areas where the overload of cases had become more than double of their manageable caseload.

The Regional Trial Court in Calamba City, Laguna, for which there are five (5) branches, has a total combined caseload of 4,380 as of March 2015. This equates to an average caseload of 876 per branch per year, which is more than double of the manageable caseload of 300 per branch.<sup>1</sup> It is therefore imperative for Congress to extend a helping hand to the Judiciary by creating more courts in affected areas like Calamba.

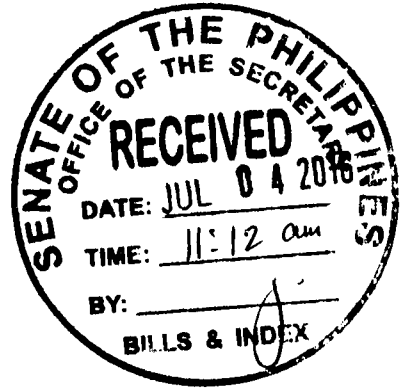
With the passage of this bill, it is my hope that soon, no Filipino will be denied justice simply due to the delay in the disposition of their cases.

  
**AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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S E N A T E  
S. B. No. 297

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT**

1       **CREATING THREE ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE**  
2       **REGIONAL TRIAL COURT WITH SEATS AT CALAMBA,**  
3       **LAGUNA IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING**  
4       **FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA**  
5       **BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY**  
6       **REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND**  
7       **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

8           SECTION 1. Three (3) additional branches of the Regional Trial  
9       Court with seats at Calamba, Laguna in the Fourth Judicial Region are  
10       hereby created.

11          SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch numbers of  
12       the newly-created Regional Trial Court branches under this Act.

13          SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination  
14       with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately  
15       include in the Court’s program the operationalization of the newly-  
16       created Regional Trial Court branches under this Act, the funding of  
17       which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.  
18       Provided, that the funds necessary for their operation shall be  
19       appropriated and released only upon their actual organization and the  
20       appointment of their personnel.

21          SEC. 4. Section 14(e) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise  
22       known as “The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980”, as amended,

1 and all other laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations which  
2 are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or  
3 modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the  
5 completion of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general  
6 circulation.

*Approved,*