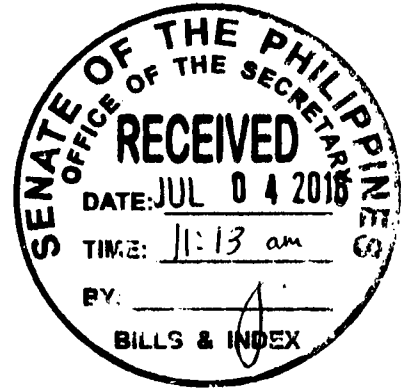


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

S E N A T E
S. B. No. 298



Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

AN ACT
CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT WITH SEAT AT IBA, ZAMBALES IN THE
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 14(C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

That our courts are inundated with cases, regardless of merit, is an incontrovertible reality. In fact, it is common to see stacks of case files finding their way into the corridors of our courts simply because they could not keep up with the volume of cases that are brought for their disposition. Due to the volume of cases in our courts, it is possible that the wheels of justice may grind to a halt.

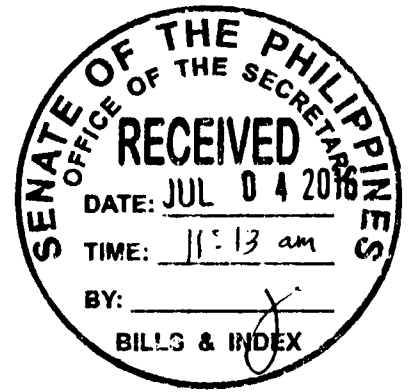
The Regional Trial Court in Iba, Zambales, for which there are three (3) branches, has a total combined caseload of 1,700 as of March 2015. This yields an average caseload of 567 per branch per year and is in excess of the manageable caseload by almost 267 cases per branch.¹ Hence, we can see the need to create an additional court to address this overload. With rapid development and increasing human activity even in the provinces like Zambales, it is almost certain that the number of legal conflicts will only steadily increase therein in the coming years.

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

¹ Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court

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



S E N A T E
S. B. No. 298

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT
1 CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL
2 TRIAL COURT WITH SEAT AT IBA, ZAMBALES IN THE
3 THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
4 SECTION 14(C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,
5 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. An additional branch of the Regional Trial Court
9 with seat at Iba, Zambales in the Third Judicial Region is hereby
10 created.

11 SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number of the
12 newly-created Regional Trial Court branch 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 branch under this Act, the funding of
17 which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

18 Provided, that the funds necessary for its operation shall be

1 appropriated and released only upon its actual organization and the
2 appointment of its personnel.

3 SEC. 4. Section 14(c) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise
4 known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended,
5 and all other laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations which
6 are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or
7 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,