

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



'18 MAY 15 P 4 58

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

RECEIVED BY

SB No 1807

---

Introduced by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel

---

**AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF LARENA, PROVINCE OF SQUIJOR, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*One court per 50,000 Filipinos.*

This is the unfortunate tale of judicial administration in the Philippines. According to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, there are only 2,000 courts of law in the entire country. Lower courts have a case load of more than one million a year or an average of 4,000 cases a day. This means that a single judge would have to try and decide an average of 644 cases a year to clear her docket.

This national data is actually worse in provinces like Siquijor. As of 2018, there is only one Regional Trial Court serving 96,000 Siquijodnons. Its increasing population and economic activity beget a burgeoning need for access to justice. In 2016 to 2017 alone, 164 new cases were added to its already clogged dockets.

This bill creates an additional branch of the Regional Trial Court for the province of Siquijor. This aims to ease the burden of the judicial system through the establishment of more lower courts. This measure seeks to make justice a tangible reality for common Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

*Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel*  
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

'18 MAY 15 P 4 :58

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Senate Bill No. **1807**

RECEIVED S. 

---

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

---

**AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF LARENA, PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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

- 1 **Section 1.** One (1) additional Regional Trial Court (RTC) branch at Larena, Siquijor, with  
2 seats thereat, are hereby created in the Seventh Judicial Region.
- 3 **Section 2.** The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly  
4 created branch.
- 5 **Section 3.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the  
6 Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the  
7 implementation of this Act. The funding therefore shall likewise be included in the annual  
8 General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the additional RTC  
9 branch herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization  
10 of the court's branch and the appointment of its personnel.
- 11 **Section 4.** Section 14(e) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary  
12 Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, as well as other provisions that may be  
13 inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed, modified and/or further amended.
- 14 **Section 5. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its  
15 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
- 16 Approved,