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SENATE
S. No. 1929

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT
REAPPORTIONING THE CURRENT FOUR (4) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF
THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA TO SIX (6) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The beauty of a democracy is that each vote and each voice is valued. Through a representative government, ordinary citizens are given the power to elect leaders that would fight for their rights, hopes and ideals. Thanks to their right to speak and protest, as well as their right to vote, the people also have the power to hold their representatives accountable.

This bill seeks to strengthen the power of the people, particularly our countrymen in Isabela, by ensuring that there is a proportionate number of constituents for each of their District Representatives.

The province of Isabela is the second largest province in the Philippines in terms of land area and is currently politically subdivided into three (3) cities and thirty-four (34) municipalities.

Based on the latest 2015 census conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Province of Isabela has a total population of 1,593,566, which includes

the highly urbanized city of Santiago with a population of 134,830. Each district representative currently serves an average of 318,000 constituents.

Article VI, Section 5, Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

“(3) Each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory. Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative.

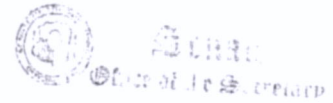
(4) Within three years following the return of every census, the Congress shall make a reappointment of legislative districts based on the standards provided in this section.”

The Constitution clearly deems 300,000 to 1 as a disproportionate number of constituents per District Representative.

Let’s uphold our Constitution and strengthen our democracy by giving the people of Isabela equal opportunity to participate in the national legislative affairs through their representatives.

In view of the foregoing, the passing of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Reapportionment of the Four (4) Legislative Districts of***
2 ***the Province of Isabela*** – The Province of Isabela shall have six (6) legislative
3 districts to commence in the next elections after the effectivity of this Act.

4 **SEC. 2. *Composition of new Districts*** – The six (6) legislative districts
5 shall be composed of the following:

6 District 1:

- 7 1. Cabagan
- 8 2. Delfin Albano
- 9 3. Divilacan
- 10 4. Maconacon
- 11 5. Palanan
- 12 6. Tumauni
- 13 7. San Pablo
- 14 8. Santa Maria
- 15 9. Santo Tomas

1 District II:

- 2 1. Benito Soliven
- 3 2. Ilagan City
- 4 3. Naguillian
- 5 4. Reina Mercedes
- 6 5. San Mariano

7 District III:

- 8 1. Alicia
- 9 2. Cabatuan
- 10 3. Cauayan City
- 11 4. Luna

12 District IV:

- 13 1. Cordon
- 14 2. Jones
- 15 3. Santiago City
- 16 4. San Agustin

17 District V:

- 18 1. Aurora
- 19 2. Burgos
- 20 3. Gamu
- 21 4. Mallig
- 22 5. Quezon
- 23 6. Quirino
- 24 7. Roxas
- 25 8. San Manuel

26 District VI:

- 27 1. Angadanan
- 28 2. Echague

- 1 3. Dinapigue
- 2 4. Ramon
- 3 5. San Guillermo
- 4 6. San Mateo
- 5 7. San Isidro

6 **SEC. 3. *Election of Representatives*** – The Election of Representatives of
7 the reapportioned districts of the Province of Isabela under this Act shall take place
8 during the next elections after the effectivity of this Act and every national and local
9 elections thereafter.

10 **SEC. 4. *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*** – In accordance with the
11 reapportionment mandated by this Act, there shall be elected three (3) Sangguniang
12 Panlalawigan members in each district in the next elections and every national and
13 local elections thereafter.

14 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – The Commission on
15 Elections shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
16 implementation of this Act.

17 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations and
18 other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with the provision of this Act
19 are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

20 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
21 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general
22 circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,