



S E N A T E

S. No. 2065

PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS ANGARA, GATCHALIAN, GORDON, LEGARDA, VILLANUEVA, BINAY, HONTIVEROS, ZUBIRI AND DRILON AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT CREATING THE POSITIONS FOR JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known
2 as the "Judges-at-Large Act of 2018".

3 SEC. 2. A new paragraph (n) is inserted in
4 Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129,
5 otherwise known as the "Judiciary
6 Reorganization Act of 1980", and shall read as
7 follows:

1 “(N) ONE HUNDRED (100) POSITIONS OF
2 REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE ARE
3 CREATED. THE DULY APPOINTED REGIONAL
4 TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE SHALL HAVE NO
5 PERMANENT SALARIES AND MAY BE ASSIGNED BY
6 THE SUPREME COURT AS ACTING OR
7 ASSISTING JUDGES TO ANY REGIONAL TRIAL
8 COURT IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PUBLIC
9 INTEREST MAY REQUIRE. THE SAID JUDGES-
10 AT-LARGE ARE ENTITLED TO SALARIES,
11 PRIVILEGES, ALLOWANCE, EMOLUMENTS,
12 BENEFITS, RANK AND TITLE OF A REGIONAL
13 TRIAL JUDGE. THE SUPREME COURT SHALL
14 DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF SUCH
15 TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT: *PROVIDED*, THAT
16 THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL SHALL
17 RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT
18 APPOINTEES TO THE JUDGES-AT-LARGE
19 POSITIONS, AFTER THE PERIOD OF THE
20 TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT, THE JUDICIAL

1 AND BAR COUNCIL SHALL RECOMMEND TO
2 THE PRESIDENT THE PERMANENT SALA TO
3 WHICH THE JUDGE-AT-LARGE SHALL BE
4 APPOINTED.”

5 SEC. 3. Section 15 of the same Act is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 “Sec. 15. *Qualifications.* – No person
8 shall be appointed Regional Trial Judge or
9 REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGE-AT-LARGE
10 unless [he] THAT PERSON is a natural-born
11 citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty-five
12 years of age, and, for at least ten years, has
13 been engaged in the practice of law in the
14 Philippines or has held a public office in the
15 Philippines requiring admission to the practice
16 of law as an indispensable requisite.”

17 SEC. 4. A new section to be denominated as Section
18 25-A is hereby inserted after Section 25 of the same Act to
19 read as follows:

1 “SEC. 25-A. CREATION OF POSITION
2 FOR MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-
3 LARGE. – FIFTY (50) POSITIONS OF
4 MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE
5 ARE CREATED. THE DULY APPOINTED
6 MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE
7 SHALL HAVE NO PERMANENT SALAS
8 AND MAY BE ASSIGNED BY THE
9 SUPREME COURT AS ACTING OR
10 ASSISTING JUDGES TO ANY FIRST LEVEL
11 COURT IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PUBLIC
12 INTEREST MAY REQUIRE. THEY SHALL BE
13 ENTITLED TO THE SALARIES, PRIVILEGES,
14 ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS, BENEFITS,
15 RANK AND TITLE OF A JUDGES OF A
16 MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES. THE
17 SUPREME COURT SHALL DETERIMINE
18 THE LENGTH OF SUCH TEMPORARY
19 ASSIGNMENT: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE
20 JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL SHALL

1 RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT
2 APPOINTEES TO THE JUDGES-AT-LARGE
3 POSITIONS. AFTER THE PERIOD OF THE
4 TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT, THE
5 JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL SHALL
6 RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THE
7 PERMANENT SALARY TO WHICH THE
8 JUDGE-AT-LARGE SHALL BE APPOINTED.”

9 SEC. 5. Section 26 of the same Act is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 “Sec. 26. *Qualifications.* – No person
12 shall be appointed judge of a Metropolitan
13 Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court, [or]
14 Municipal Circuit Trial Court, OR A
15 MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGE-AT-LARGE
16 unless [he] THAT PERSON is a natural-born
17 citizen of the Philippines, at least 30 years
18 of age, and, for at least five years, have
19 been engaged in the practice of law in the
20 Philippines, or has held a public office in

1 the Philippines requiring admission to the
2 practice of law as an indispensable requisite.”

3 SEC. 6. Section 41 of the same Act is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “Sec. 41. *Salaries.* – Intermediate
6 Appellate Justices, Regional Trial Judges,
7 REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE,
8 Metropolitan Trial Judges, Municipal Trial
9 Judges [and] Municipal Circuit Trial Judges,
10 AND MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-
11 LARGE shall receive such compensation and
12 allowances as may be authorized by the
13 President along the guidelines set forth in
14 Letter of Implementation No. 93 pursuant to
15 Presidential Decree No. 985, as amended by
16 Presidential Decree No. 1597.”

17 Section 7. Section 42 of the same Act shall read as
18 follows:

19 “Sec. 42. *Longevity pay.* – A monthly
20 longevity pay equivalent to 5% of the monthly

1 basic pay shall be paid to the Justices and
2 Judges of the courts herein created for each
3 five years of continuous, efficient, and
4 meritorious service rendered in the judiciary:
5 *Provided, That in no cases shall the total*
6 salary of each Justice or Judge concerned, after
7 this longevity pay is added, exceed the salary of
8 the Justice or Judge next in rank.”

9 SEC. 8. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the
10 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the
11 available appropriations of the Judiciary under the current
12 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may
13 be necessary for its continued implementation shall be
14 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
16 Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the
17 Supreme Court, in consultation with the Secretary of
18 Budget and Management shall promulgate the necessary
19 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
20 this Act.

1 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or
2 part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the
3 remaining part or provisions not affected shall remain in
4 full force and effect.

5 SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect
6 fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*
7 or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,