



**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
First Regular Session ]**

'22 AUG 17 A11 :54

RECEIVED BY:

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1204**

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**Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF FAMILY COURTS IN THE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF  
VALENZUELA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Swift and fair judicial administration is crucial for promoting economic growth, sustainable development, peace and order, respect for human rights, and protection of families as a basic unit of society. Where access to and administration of justice is impartial and expeditious, people and businesses will put their trust in the government and will feel confident in investing in the country. However, the tale of judicial administration in the Philippines is unfortunate.

In Valenzuela, only ten (10) courts are serving a population of 13.5 million Valenzuelanos.<sup>1</sup> This translates to having only one (1) court for every 1.35 million residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Statistics Authority (May 1, 2020); <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/node/165009>

This hapless state of judicial administration is further reflected in the number of new cases filed before Family Courts in Valenzuela City compared to those filed in their regular courts. From October 11, 2018 to July 7, 2022, the distribution of cases in Family Courts averages at 1,032 newly-filed cases per court, which is higher than the average of 783 newly-filed cases per regular court, as shown below:

Jurisdiction	Number of Courts	Total Newly Filed Cases	Average Newly Filed Cases per Court*
Regular	6	4,703	783
Family	3	3,097	1,032
Commercial	1	742	742
Total	10	8,542	854

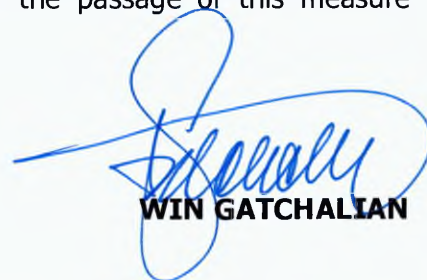
Source: Regional Trial Court of Valenzuela

\*Rounded off

This disparity in the average number of cases received by Family Courts will not only delay the disposition of family-related cases, but will also prolong the agony of children and the hostilities among family members residing in Valenzuela City. This runs counter to the best interest of the child as well as the protection of families as a basic unit of society and as a primary consideration of the city government.

Thus, this measure seeks to create two (2) additional Family Courts in Valenzuela City pursuant to the Family Courts Act of 1997 with the objectives of speeding up administration of justice and promoting the best interest of the child and the protection of the family. The number of additional courts has been recommended by Valenzuela City stakeholders, especially those involved in advocacies for women, children and family, mitigating juvenile delinquency, among other family-related issues.

With all these considerations, support for the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**WIN GATCHALIAN**

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

1           SECTION 1. *Creation of Two (2) Family Courts.* - Two (2) additional  
2 branches of Family Courts are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial  
3 Region, to be stationed in the City of Valenzuela, in accordance with the  
4 provisions of Republic Act No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts  
5 Act of 1997".

6           The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch number for the  
7 newly-created Family Court branches.

8  
9           SEC. 2. *Operationalization and Appropriation of the Newly Created*  
10 *Courts.* - The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the  
11 Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's  
12 program the operationalization of the two (2) new additional branches of Family  
13 Courts in the City of Valenzuela. The funds necessary for the operation of the

1 courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual  
2 organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.

3

4       SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, rules and regulations which  
5 are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified  
6 accordingly.

7

8       SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*