CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NINETEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6584

By Representatives Cari, Ferrer (J.M.), Co (E.), Quimbo, Acidre, Albano, Palma, Suarez, Alvarez (J.), Aquino, Arenas, Bautista-Lim, Bongalon, Cajayon-Uy, Celeste, Cuaresma, Espina, Go (E.C.), Gonzaga, Haresco, Loyola, Matugas, Momo, Nava, Singson (R.), Tiangco, Umali, Violago, Yu (D.G.), Zubiri, Abalos, Adiong, Advincula, Almario, Amante, Ang, Asistio, Aumentado, Bascug, Bosita, Bustos, Chatto, Cojuangco (J.), Cruz (A.), Cruz (R.), Dagooc, Dionisio, Eudela, Fortes, Fresnedi, Garcia (D.), Garcia (M.A.), Gardiola, Go (M.), Golez, Gutierrez, Hernandez, Khonghun, Lagon (D.), Lagon (S.), Lazatin, Lee, Legarda, Luistro, Maceda, Mangaoang, Mastura, Matibag, Nograles (M.I.), Ouano-Dizon, Paduano, Panaligan, Pancho, Pleyto, Revilla (R.J.), Rodriguez (E.), Sakaluran, Sali, Santos, Tan (J.), Tanchay, Tulfo (J.), Vargas, Vergara, Verzosa, Yap (C.), Enverga, Gasataya, Mariano-Hernandez, Mariño, Marquez, Miguel, Roque, Villafuerte (L.R.), Saulog and Yap (C.T.), per Committee Report No. 231

AN ACT

CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, TO BE DESIGNATED AS A SPECIAL COURT FOR DRUGS CASES, IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED] AN ACT

CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980"

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

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Eighth Judicial Region, [to be designated as a Special Court for Drugs Cases,] is hereby created and stationed in the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte.

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The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of the additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte. THE SUPREME COURT SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AND, IF WARRANTED, THE REALIGNMENT OF SEATS OF EXISTING BRANCHES AND THEIR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

SEC. 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits and emoluments for the judge and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and provisions for a Hall of Justice or courtroom to accommodate the judge and court staff, AS WELL AS FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE **POSITIONS IMPLEMENTATION** OF AUTOMATICALLY-CREATED **PROSECUTOR** PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 OR THE "PROSECUTION SERVICE ACT OF 2010" AND APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ATTORNEYS PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406 OR THE "ACT REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO)", RESULTING FROM THE CREATION OF THESE COURTS, INCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES SUCH AS SALARIES, BENEFITS, AND EMOLUMENTS FOR PROSECUTORS AND PUBLIC ATTORNEYS shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COURTS HEREIN CREATED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND RELEASED ONLY UPON THE ACTUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS PERSONNEL.

SEC. 4. THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF BAYBAY, LEYTE WILL HAVE TWO (2) BRANCHES. THE STAFFING PATTERN OF EACH BRANCH SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

| NO. OF | POSITION TITLE | SG |
|-----------|----------------------------|----|
| POSITIONS | | |
| 1 | REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE | 29 |
| 1 | CLERK OF COURT V | 24 |
| 1 | COURT LEGAL RESEARCHER II | 15 |
| 1 | INTERPRETER III | 12 |
| 4 | COURT STENOGRAPHER III | 12 |
| 1 | SHERIFF IV | 12 |
| 2 | CLERK III | 6 |
| 1 | PROCESS SERVER | 5 |
| 1 | UTILITY WORKER I | 1 |
| 13 | PERSONNEL | |

THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE NEW OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (OCC) SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NINE (9) PERSONNEL, WHILE THE DATA ENTRY MACHINE OPERATOR (DEMO) FROM THE ORIGINAL RTC WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE OCC, UNLESS MODIFIED AS DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

IN ADDITION, THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF PROSECUTOR/S AND PUBLIC ATTORNEY/S AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF BASED ON THE RATIO OUTLINED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406, RESPECTIVELY.

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

SEC. [**5**]6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,