

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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7 JUL -2 1978

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 537

Introduced by Senator **JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article 129 of the Labor Code, as amended, provides that when the aggregate money claims of an employee or house helper amounts to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or below, the matter involving the recovery of wages and other monetary claims and benefits, including legal interest, owing to an employee or person employed in domestic or household service, arising from employer-employee relations, except when it includes a claim for reinstatement, shall be heard and decided by the Regional Director of the Department of Labor and Employment. Otherwise, the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) has the jurisdiction over the labor-related claims.

Operating under this provision, the claimants of P5,000.00 and above are suffering unnecessary delays due to the distance of NLRC Offices. Apart from this fact, cases are continually piling up in NLRC beyond the capacity of the institution resulting to more pending cases, more petitioners waiting for their claims, and most significantly, more time being wasted.

To be able promote efficiency, especially in this concern, where money is involved, this bill proposes to remove the P5,000.00 ceiling in the amount of claims that will be attended to by the DOLE Regional Offices. Through this amendment, the offices rendering the needed services will be more accessible and the process will be improved. It will not only enhance the efficiency of the institution but will also result to the delivery of quality service to the public.

Apart from the above amendment, the bill also proposes the re-allocation of the jurisdiction of labor arbiters in handling all money claims to reduce the inflow of cases to the NLRC.

This bill aims to expedite the administration and enforcement of cases involving recovery of wages, money claims and other benefits. In effect, not only will there be a speedy disposition of labor-related cases but the claimants, as well as their dependents, can anticipate a better and more responsive service from the institution.

The approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator



MONETARY CLAIMS accompanied with a claim for reinstatement.

(b) xxx

(c) xxx

**SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby modified and repealed.

**SEC. 4. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*

*APPROVED,*