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SENATE

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 147.**

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights and on Finance on **10 OCT 2006**

Re : House Bill No. 5305, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2442

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor : Senator Enrile *[Signature]*

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights and on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 5305, introduced by Representatives Petilla, Cari, Datumanong and Salceda, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (F) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7154, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2442, introduced by Senator Recto, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendment.

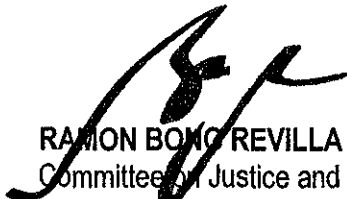
Respectfully submitted:

Chairmen:


**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights

*[Signature]*  
**JUAN PONCE ENRILE**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Member, Committee on Finance

Members:




**RAMON BONO REVILLA JR.**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Committee on Finance




**COMPANERA PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights

**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Committee on Finance

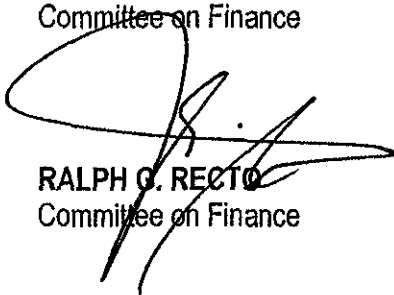


**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights



**ALFREDO S. LIM**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Committee on Finance

**M.A. MADRIGAL**  
Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
Committee on Finance



**RALPH G. RECTO**  
Committee on Finance

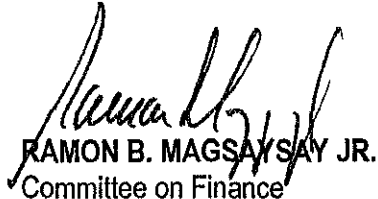


**JOKER P. ARROYO**  
Committee on Finance

**MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO**  
Committee on Finance



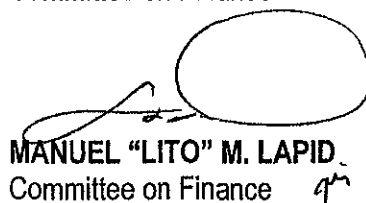
**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Committee on Finance



**RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY JR.**  
Committee on Finance



**MAR A. ROXAS**  
Committee on Finance



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Committee on Finance

**SERGIO OSMEÑA III**  
Committee on Finance



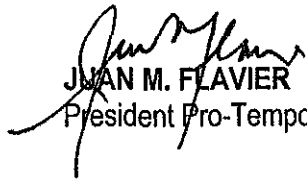
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Committee on Finance

**PANFILO M. LACSON**  
Committee on Finance

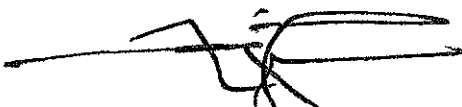


**LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Committee on Finance


*Ex-Officio Members:*



JUAN M. FLAVIER  
President Pro-Tempore



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN  
Majority Leader



AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.  
Minority Leader

Hon. MANNY VILLAR  
*President*  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
*Second Regular Session*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5305

SEN 2442

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BY REPRESENTATIVES PETILLA, CARE, DAFUMANONG AND SALCEDA, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1584

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AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED  
IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION  
ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 14, paragraph (i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129,  
2 otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended,  
3 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

4                   "SEC. 14. *Regional Trial Courts* ..

5                   x   x   x

1           “(e) [Forty-one] FORTY-THREE Regional Trial Court  
2 Judges shall be commissioned for the Eighth Judicial Region.  
3 There shall be:

4           “x x x  
5           [Seventeen] NINETEEN branches with seats thereat for the  
6 Province of Leyte, the [Sub-p]Province of Biliran, and the Cities  
7 of Ormoc and Tacloban, with seats at Tacloban City, Abuyog,  
8 Calubian, Ormoc City, Carigara, Baybay, Burauen, Naval,  
9 Palompon, Hilongos, and Caibiran;

10          “x x x.”

11          SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the two additional branches of  
12 the Regional Trial Court in the City of Tacloban, Province of Leyte in  
13 accordance with this Act.

14          SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in coordination with  
15 the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the  
16 court’s program the operationalization of the additional Regional Trial Court  
17 branches in the Province of Leyte, with station at the City of Tacloban, the  
18 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19          SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

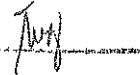
Approved,

13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

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SENATE

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S. BILL NO. 2442

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

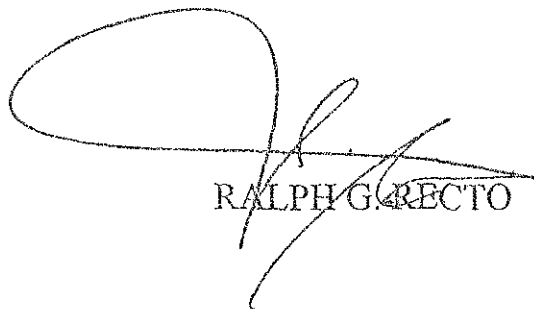
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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The First District of Leyte comprises the Municipalities of Alangalang, Babatngon, Palo, San Miguel, Sta. Fe, Tanaua, Tolosa and the City of Tacloban, the capital of the province and the acknowledged Regional Center of Region 8. The request for two additional branches is to address the growing demand for the immediate resolution of cases which presently clog the dockets and slow down the dispensation of justice in the area. The Leyteños deserve expeditious resolutions of their legal problems.

The density of cases being distributed among the five (5) courts is contributory to the slow disposition of cases and to the administration of justice in general. Hence, this bill seeks to create two (2) additional Regional Trial Court branches in the Eighth Judicial Region in Eastern Visayas, particularly in the City of Tacloban, Province of Leyte, in addition to the five (5) branches thereof in the First District of the aforementioned province.

It is hoped that this proposal will greatly reduce the burden of the existing courts. In view thereof, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



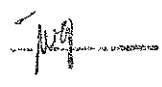
RALPH G. RECTO

13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY



S. BILL NO. 2442

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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**AN ACT CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Section 14, paragraph (i) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. Regional Trial Courts. -

x x x

"(e) [Forty-one] FORTY-THREE Regional Trial Court Judges shall be commissioned for the Eight Judicial Region. There shall be:

"x x x

[Seventeen] NINETEEN branches with seats thereat for the Province of Leyte, the [Sub-p] Province of Biliran, and the Cities of Ormoc and Tacloban, with seats at Tacloban City, Abuyog, Calubian, Ormoc City, Carigara, Baybay, Burauen, Naval, Palompon, Hilongos, and Caibiran;

"x x x."

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the two additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Tacloban, Province of Leyte in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 3. 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 Regional Trial Court branches in the Province of Leyte, with station at the City of Tacloban, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,