


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

8 NOV 11 1995

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SENATE

S. No. 2790

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III of our Constitution gives each person the right to a speedy trial, it provides that: "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."

The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980 (BP 129) allotted the corresponding number of courts per judicial region based on the exigencies existing at that time.

Twenty seven years have passed since the effectivity of BP 129.

Because of the increase in our population and the increase in the volume of cases filed, our court dockets have been clogged and this has resulted in the delay in the resolution of cases.

In order to improve the disposition and administration of justice and to ensure the right to a speedy trial, the number of courts must necessarily be increased.

In view of the foregoing provisions, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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AN ACT  
CREATING TWO ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN  
THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT VIGAN CITY, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT  
OF 1980 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 14, Paragraph (a) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended,  
otherwise known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, is hereby amended to  
create two additional branches and shall read as follows:

"SEC. 14. Regional Trial Courts.--

x x x

(a) [Fifty-seven] Regional Trial Judges shall be commissioned for the First Judicial  
Region AS FOLLOWS. There shall be:

x x x

"x x x branches [(Branches XX to XXV)] for Province of Ilocos Sur, [Branches XX and  
XXI] FOUR BRANCHES AT VIGAN CITY, with seats at Vigan CITY;"

x x x

SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall number and assign the additional branches of  
the Regional Trial Court in Vigan City, in accordance with this Act.

SECTION 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 Vigan City, the  
funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,