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SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING*

Second Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

S. No. 1886 AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED

Author: Senators Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao and Richard M. Gordon

Referred to: Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Key words: amendment of Sections 19 and 33 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129

The bill seeks to expand the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in cities, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts by amending certain sections of Batas Pambansa Blg.129, otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended.

The amendments in Section 19, paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (8) provide that the Regional Trial Courts shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction:

(2) In all civil actions which involve the title to, or possession of, real property, or any interest therein, where the assessed value exceeds four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) except for forcible entry into and unlawful detainer of lands or buildings, original jurisdiction over which is conferred upon the Metropolitan Trial Courts, and Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts;

(3) In all actions in admiralty and maritime jurisdiction where the demand or claims exceeds two million pesos (P2,000,000.00);

(4) In all matters of probate, both testate and intestate, where the gross value of the estate exceeds two million pesos (P2,000,000.00);

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(8) In all other cases in which the demand, exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs or the value of the property in controversy exceeds two million pesos (P2,000,000.00).

The amendments in Section 33 paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) provide that the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall exercise:

(1) Exclusive original jurisdiction over civil actions and probate proceedings, testate and intestate, including the grant of provisional remedies in proper cases, where the value of the personal property, estate, or amount of the demand does not exceed two million pesos (P2,000,000.00), exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs, the amount of which must be specifically alleged;

(3) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil actions which involve title to, or possession of, real property, or any interest therein where the assessed value of the property or any interest therein does not exceed four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs;

(4) Exclusive original jurisdiction in admiralty and maritime actions where the demand or claim does not exceed two million pesos (P2,000,000.00).

The bill states that five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, and every five (5) years thereafter, the jurisdictional amount mentioned in Sec. 19 (2), (3), (4) and (8), and Sec. 33 (1), (3), and (4) of Batas Pambansa Blg.129, as amended by this Act, shall be increased by one hundred thousand pesos, (P100,000.00), unless provided for by law.

(Summary prepared by: Ma. Gloria Socorro A. Ocampo, 02 February 2021)

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