

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO.** 991

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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**Introduced by Honorable Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

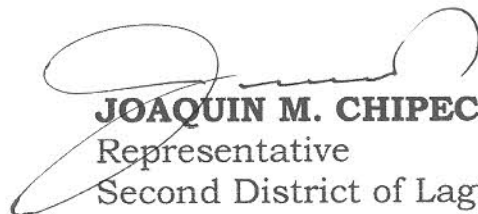
Under Section 16 of Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution it is provided that "All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies." However, due to perennial clogging of the court dockets in our country, this constitutional right has become illusory to many Filipinos.

For instance, the combined caseload of the five (5) existing branches of the Regional Trial Court in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna is presently 4,301 cases, averaging 860 cases per sala. This is a far cry from the ideal or manageable ratio of 300 cases for each branch. On the basis of this ratio, at least nine (9) additional branches of the court must be created in the near future for Calamba City to head-off delays in the resolution of disputes from reaching critical mass. The enactment of a law during the Fifteenth Congress creating three (3) new courts in Calamba City only serves as a palliative to the urgent need for the establishment of even more salas thereat. This upward adjustment however, it must be noted, is a conservative estimate, based only on the total caseload of the five branches at present, discounting the annual rate of population growth in that city which, even now, has been designated as a Regional Center.

While the Supreme Court continuously adopts judicial reforms geared towards facilitating the caseload in the various courts, the same can only achieve so much in the matter of early resolution of judicial controversies. In the meantime, government must increase the number of courts if it were to improve the administration of justice in our country.

It must always be remembered that justice is one of the basic needs of man. It was Gladstone who taught us that "justice delayed is justice denied." On the other hand, the Earl of Mansfield insisted, "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall."

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.



**JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.**  
Representative  
Second District of Laguna

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF CALAMBA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Three (3) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Calamba City, with seat thereat, are hereby created in the Fourth Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branches.

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 implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise 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 courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. Section 14 (e) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, as well as other provisions that may be inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed, modified and/or further amended.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,