

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2698



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE MARISOL C. PANOTES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as the "*Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980*" established four (4) regional trial court branches (RTC Branch 38, 39, 40 and 41 all stationed in the Municipality of Daet) for the Province of Camarines Norte at a time when its population was only 308, 007. After several years, an additional regional trial court (RTC Branch 64 stationed in the Municipality of Labo) was created to serve the growing population.


As the population of the Province of Camarines Norte continues to grow, so goes the demand for the dispensation of pending court cases in the province. Based on the 2015 Census of Population, the province has a population of 583, 313, which has almost doubled when compared to the time when the four (4) regional trial courts were established. More than three (3) years ago, the five (5) regional trial courts in the province had a total of 2,683 pending civil and criminal cases and this number is expected to rise as years go by due to the continuously growing population. This situation will certainly affect the speedy resolution of cases, which may eventually lead to miscarriage of justice.

It is worthy to mention the words uttered by an eminent American Statesman, Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States that, "Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation".

This bill therefore seeks to create additional two (2) regional trial court branches to be stationed at the Municipalities of Daet and Labo in the Province of Camarines Norte.

The paramount objective of this bill is to address the severe lack of regional trial court branches that will help prevent the inevitable build up of cases for the great benefit of the people seeking an impartial and speedy resolution of court cases.

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


MARISOL C. PANOTES
Representative
Second District, Camarines Norte

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AN ACT
CREATING ADDITIONAL TWO (2) BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DAET AND LABO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (f) 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. Section 14 (f) 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.* – xxx xxx xxx

(f) xxx xxx xxx

[Five] SEVEN (7) branches for the province of Camarines Norte, with [four (4)] FIVE (5) seats at Daet and [one (1) seat] TWO (2) SEATS at Labo;

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, will include in the Court's agenda the operation of the additional Regional Trial Court branches in the Municipalities of Daet and Labo, Province of Camarines Norte, the funding for which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,