



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7309

BY REPRESENTATIVES VELASCO-CATERA, LOYOLA, VELASCO, UMALI, NOGRALES (K.A.), VELOSO, ROMUALDO, ZUBIRI, BRAVO (A.), MARCOLETA, GASATAYA, VELARDE, UNGAB, SAMBAR, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, GARCIA (G.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), SALO, SARMIENTO (E.M.), MENDOZA, BIAZON, LOBREGAT, ALONTE, AMATONG, ARAGONES, BAG-AO, BENITEZ, DELOSO-MONTALLA, ESCUDERO, GO (M.), LACSON, MALAPITAN, MONTORO, PADUANO, RAMOS, SUANSING (E.), TAN (A.), TUGNA, VILLARIN, YU AND PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 641

AN ACT CREATING THE POSITIONS FOR JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. A new paragraph (n) is inserted in Section 14 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", and shall read as follows:

"(N) ONE HUNDRED (100) POSITIONS OF REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE ARE CREATED. THE DULY APPOINTED REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE SHALL

HAVE NO PERMANENT SALAS AND CAN BE DETAILED BY THE SUPREME COURT AS ACTING OR ASSISTING JUDGES TO ANY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PUBLIC INTEREST MAY REQUIRE. THE SAID JUDGES-AT-LARGE ARE ENTITLED TO THE SALARIES, PRIVILEGES, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS, BENEFITS, RANK AND TITLE OF A REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGE."

SEC. 2. Section 15 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. *Qualifications.* - No person shall be appointed Regional Trial Judge OR REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGE-AT-LARGE unless [he] THAT PERSON is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty-five years of age, and, for at least ten years, has been engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines or has held a public office in the Philippines requiring admission to the practice of law as an indispensable requisite."

SEC. 3. A new section to be denominated as Section 25-A is hereby inserted after Section 25 of the same Act to read as follows:

"SEC. 25-A. *CREATION OF POSITIONS FOR MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE.* - FIFTY (50) POSITIONS OF MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE ARE CREATED. THE DULY APPOINTED MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE SHALL HAVE NO PERMANENT SALAS AND CAN BE DETAILED BY THE SUPREME COURT AS ACTING OR ASSISTING JUDGES TO ANY FIRST LEVEL

1 COURT IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PUBLIC INTEREST MAY
2 REQUIRE. THEY SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE SALARIES,
3 PRIVILEGES, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS, BENEFITS,
4 RANK AND TITLE OF A JUDGE OF A MUNICIPAL TRIAL
5 COURT IN CITIES.”

6 SEC. 4. Section 26 of the same Act is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 “SEC. 26. *Qualifications.* – No person shall be
9 appointed judge of a Metropolitan Trial Court,
10 Municipal Trial Court, [or] Municipal Circuit Trial
11 Court, OR A MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGE-AT-LARGE unless
12 [he] THAT PERSON is a natural-born citizen of the
13 Philippines, at least 30 years of age, and, for at least
14 five years, has been engaged in the practice of law in
15 the Philippines, or has held a public office in the
16 Philippines requiring admission to the practice of law as
17 an indispensable requisite.”

18 SEC. 5. Section 41 of the same Act is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 “SEC. 41. *Salaries.* – Intermediate Appellate
21 Justices, Regional Trial Judges, REGIONAL TRIAL
22 JUDGES-AT-LARGE, Metropolitan Trial Judges,
23 Municipal Trial Judges, [and] Municipal Circuit Trial
24 Judges, AND MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE shall
25 receive such compensation and allowances as may be
26 authorized by the President along the guidelines set
27 forth in Letter of Implementation No. 93 pursuant to
28

1 Presidential Decree No. 985, as amended by
2 Presidential Decree No. 1597.”

3 SEC. 6. Section 42 of the same Act is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 “SEC. 42. *Longevity pay AND DISPLACEMENT*
6 *ALLOWANCE.* – A monthly longevity pay equivalent to
7 5% of the monthly basic pay shall be paid to the Justices
8 and Judges of the courts herein created for each five
9 years of continuous, efficient, and meritorious service
10 rendered in the judiciary: *Provided,* That in no case
11 shall the total salary of each Justice or Judge
12 concerned, after this longevity pay is added, exceed the
13 salary of the Justice or Judge next in rank.

14 “REGIONAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE AND
15 MUNICIPAL TRIAL JUDGES-AT-LARGE SHALL RECEIVE
16 DISPLACEMENT ALLOWANCES, WHICH SHALL COVER
17 THEIR HOUSING, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER
18 NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THEIR
19 DETAIL TO COURTS LOCATED OUTSIDE THEIR
20 PERMANENT RESIDENCES. THE SUPREME COURT,
21 UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COURT
22 ADMINISTRATOR AND THE PLANTILLA COMMITTEE,
23 SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF DISPLACEMENT
24 ALLOWANCE FOR EACH DETAILED JUDGE-AT-LARGE.”

25 SEC. 7. The amount necessary for the implementation of this
26 Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the
27 Judiciary under the current General Appropriations Act.
28 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued

1 implementation shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 8. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act,
4 the Supreme Court, in consultation with the Secretary of Budget
5 and Management, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
6 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

7 SEC. 9. If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
8 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
9 shall remain in full force and effect.

10 SEC. 10. All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and
11 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
12 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
13 accordingly.

14 SEC. 11. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
16 circulation.

Approved,

O