

H. No. 9480

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Metro Manila  
Nineteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand twenty-four.

[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12291 ]

AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SULOP, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. One (1) additional branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Eleventh Judicial Region is hereby created and stationed in the Municipality of Sulop, Province of Davao del Sur.

The Supreme Court shall assign the branch number for the newly created branch of the Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 2. 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 branch of the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Sulop, Province of Davao del Sur. The Supreme Court shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act and, if warranted, the realignment of seats of existing branches and their territorial jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for judges and court personnel, court operations under maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and provisions for Halls of Justice or courtrooms to accommodate judges and court staff, as well as funds necessary for the implementation of automatically created prosecutor positions pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10071 or the "Prosecution Service Act of 2010" and appointment of public attorneys pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9406 or the Act reorganizing and strengthening the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), resulting from the creation of this court, including appropriations for personnel services such as salaries, benefits, and emoluments for prosecutors and public attorneys, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The funds necessary for the operation of the court herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the court and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. In view of the proposed additional branch of the Regional Trial Court, the Regional Trial Court in the Municipality of Sulop, Province of Davao del Sur, shall have a staffing pattern as follows:

No. of Positions	Position Title	Salary Grade
1	Regional Trial Court Judge	29
1	Clerk of Court VI	25
1	Court Legal Researcher II	15
1	Interpreter III	12
4	Court Stenographer III	12
1	Sheriff IV	12
1	Data Entry Machine Operator II	8
2	Clerk III	6
1	Process Server	5
1	Utility Worker I	1
14	Personnel	

The staff complement of the new Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) shall be composed of nine (9) personnel, while the data entry machine operator (DEMO) from the original Regional Trial Court will be transferred to the OCC, unless modified as determined by the Supreme Court.

In addition, there shall be appointed the corresponding number of prosecutor/s and public attorney/s and their support staff based on the ratio outlined in Republic Act No. 10071 and Republic Act No. 9406, respectively.

SEC. 5. Section 14(l) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.


SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.


Approved,

  
 FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO President of the Senate

  
 FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act, which originated in the House of Representatives, was passed by the House of Representatives on November 29, 2023, amended by the Senate of the Philippines on February 3, 2025, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on June 9, 2025.

  
RENATO N. BANTUG JR.  
*Secretary of the Senate*

  
REGINALD S. VELASCO  
*Secretary General  
House of Representatives*

Approved: **SEP 12 2025**

  
FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.  
*President of the Philippines*

