



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 4739**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DATUMANONG, SALCEDA AND SUSANO

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AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO AND TWO MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES BRANCHES IN COTABATO CITY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(M) AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 14(m) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise  
2 known as the Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980, as amended by Republic  
3 Act No. 7154, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

4                   "SEC. 14. *Regional Trial Courts.* –

5                   x   x   x

6                   (m) x   x   x There shall be:

7                   x   x   x

1                   x   x   x

2                   **[Three] FOUR** branches with seats thereat for the Province  
3 of Maguindanao and the City of Cotabato, with seats at Cotabato  
4 City and **[Maganoy] SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO;**

5                   x   x   x.”

6                   SEC. 2. Section 29 of the same law is hereby further amended to read  
7 as follows:

8                   “SEC 29. *Municipal Trial Courts in cities.* – In every city  
9 which does not form part of a metropolitan area there shall be a  
10 Municipal Trial Court with one branch except as hereunder  
11 provided:

12                   x   x   x

13                   **THREE BRANCHES FOR COTABATO CITY;**

14                   x   x   x.”

15                   SEC. 3. The jurisdiction over cases cognizable by a Regional Trial  
16 Court and Municipal Trial Court in Cities under existing laws, emanating from  
17 the municipalities of Shariff Aguak, Ampatuan, Mamasapano, Talayan,  
18 Guindulungan, Talitay, South Upi, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Saudi, Datu  
19 Piang, Datu Unsay, Sultan sa Barongis, Rajah Buayan, Salipada K. Pendatun,  
20 Paglat, Buluan, Datu Paglas, Datu Montawal, and Pagalungan shall be lodged

1 in the Regional Trial Court branch and two Municipal Trial Court in Cities  
2 branches created under this Act.

3 SEC. 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with  
4 the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the  
5 court's program the operationalization of one additional regional trial court  
6 branch in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao and two municipal trial court in cities  
7 branches in Cotabato City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual  
8 General Appropriations Act.

9 SEC. 5. Section 14(m) and Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129,  
10 otherwise known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended,  
11 and all other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act  
12 are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 6. In the event that any of the provisions of this Act is declared to  
14 be unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid  
15 and binding.

16 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,