



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6589

BY REPRESENTATIVES VILLAFUERTE, LEACHON, NOGRALES (J.J.),
VELOSO, ROMUALDO, RODRIGUEZ, GONZAGA, CALDERON,
CABATBAT, FORTUN, OAMINAL, GARCIA (P.J.), BELMONTE,
VERGARA, BLAZON AND DEFENSOR (M.), PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 291

AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL
COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS,
AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE 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:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 19 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise
2 known as the "Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980," as amended
3 by Republic Act No. 7691, is hereby further amended to read as
4 follows:

5 "Section 19. *Jurisdiction OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL*
6 *COURTS in civil cases.* - Regional Trial Courts shall
7 exercise exclusive original jurisdiction:

8 "(1) In all civil actions in which the subject of the
9 litigation is incapable of pecuniary estimation;

1 “(2) In all civil actions which involve the title to, or
2 possession of, real property, or any interest therein,
3 where the assessed value of the property involved
4 exceeds [Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or, for
5 civil actions in Metro Manila, where such value exceeds
6 Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] **FOUR HUNDRED**
7 **THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00)**, except actions for
8 forcible entry into and unlawful detainer of lands or
9 buildings, original jurisdiction over which is conferred
10 upon the Metropolitan Trial Courts, **MUNICIPAL TRIAL**
11 **COURTS IN CITIES**, Municipal Trial Courts, and
12 Municipal Circuit Trial Courts;

13 “(3) In all actions in admiralty and maritime
14 jurisdiction where the demand or claim exceeds [One
15 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in Metro
16 Manila, where such demand or claim exceeds Two
17 hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION**
18 **PESOS (P2,000,000.00)**;

19 “(4) In all matters of probate, both testate and
20 intestate, where the gross value of the estate exceeds
21 [One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in
22 probate matters in Metro Manila, where such gross
23 value exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos
24 (P200,000.00)] **TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)**;

25 “x x x

1 “(8) In all other cases in which the demand,
2 exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind,
3 attorney’s fees, litigation expenses, and costs or the
4 value of the property in controversy exceeds [One
5 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or, in such other
6 cases in Metro Manila, where the demand, exclusive of
7 the abovementioned items exceeds Two hundred
8 thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] TWO MILLION PESOS
9 (P2,000,000.00).”

10 SEC. 2. Section 33 of the same law, as amended, is hereby
11 further amended to read as follows:

12 “Section 33. *Jurisdiction of Metropolitan Trial*
13 *Courts, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES,*
14 *Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial*
15 *Courts in Civil Cases. – Metropolitan Trial Courts,*
16 **MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, Municipal Trial**
17 **Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall**
18 **exercise:**

19 “(1) Exclusive original jurisdiction over civil
20 actions and probate proceedings, testate and intestate,
21 including the grant of provisional remedies in proper
22 cases, where the value of the personal property, estate,
23 or amount of the demand does not exceed [Three
24 hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) or, in Metro
25 Manila where such personal property, estate, or amount
26 of the demand does not exceed Four hundred thousand
27 pesos (P400,000.00)] TWO MILLION PESOS

1 (P2,000,000.00), exclusive of interest, damages of
 2 whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and
 3 costs, the amount of which must be specifically alleged:
 4 *Provided*, That interest, damages of whatever kind,
 5 attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs shall be
 6 included in the determination of the filing fees:
 7 *Provided, further*, That where there are several claims
 8 or causes of actions between the same or different
 9 parties, embodied in the same complaint, the amount of
 10 the demand shall be the totality of the claims in
 11 all the causes of action, irrespective of whether the
 12 causes of action arose out of the same or different
 13 transactions;

14 "(2) ...;[and]

15 "(3) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil
 16 actions which involve title to, or possession of, real
 17 property, or any interest therein where the assessed
 18 value of the property or interest therein does not exceed
 19 [Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or, in civil actions
 20 in Metro Manila, where such assessed value does not
 21 exceed Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] FOUR
 22 HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00) exclusive of
 23 interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees,
 24 litigation expenses and costs: *Provided*, That in cases of
 25 land not declared for taxation purposes, the value of
 26 such property shall be determined by the assessed value
 27 of the adjacent lots[.]; AND

1 **"(4) EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN**
2 **ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME ACTIONS WHERE THE**
3 **DEMAND OR CLAIM DOES NOT EXCEED TWO MILLION**
4 **PESOS (P2,000,000.00)."**

5 **SEC. 3. Section 34 of the same law, as amended, is hereby**
6 **further amended to read as follows:**

7 **"Sec. 34. Delegated Jurisdiction in Cadastral and**
8 **Land Registration Cases. – Metropolitan Trial Courts,**
9 **MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, Municipal Trial**
10 **Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts may be**
11 **assigned by the Supreme Court to hear and determine**
12 **cadastral or land registration cases covering lots where**
13 **there is no controversy or opposition, or contested lots**
14 **[where] the value of which [does not exceed One**
15 **hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00),] SHALL BE**
16 **DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME COURT AS IT SEES FIT**
17 **IN THE EXIGENCY OF THE SERVICE, [such value] to be**
18 **ascertained by the affidavit of the claimant or by**
19 **agreement of the respective claimants if there are more**
20 **than one, or from the corresponding tax declaration of**
21 **the real property. [Their decisions in these cases shall**
22 **be appealable in the same manner as decisions of the**
23 **Regional Trial Courts.]"**

24 **SEC. 4. Five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act and**
25 **every five (5) years thereafter, the jurisdictional amounts mentioned**
26 **in Section 19(2) and Section 33(3) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as**
27 **amended by this Act, shall be increased by One hundred thousand**

1 pesos (P100,000.00), while the jurisdictional amounts mentioned in
2 Section 19(3), 19(4) and 19(8) and Section 33(1) and 33(4), of the
3 same law, as amended by this Act, shall be increased by Five
4 hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00).

5 SEC. 5. The provisions of this Act shall apply to all civil cases
6 that have not yet reached the pre-trial stage. However, by
7 agreement of all the parties, civil cases cognizable by the
8 Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities,
9 Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts
10 pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be transferred from the
11 Regional Trial Courts to the latter. The Supreme Court shall define
12 the administrative procedure for the transfer of such cases to the
13 Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities,
14 Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts.

15 SEC. 6. If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
16 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
17 shall remain in full force and effect.

18 SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and
19 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
20 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
21 accordingly.

22 SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
24 circulation.

Approved,