

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11459, August 30, 2019]

**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. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Judges-at-Large Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. 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 salaries and may be assigned 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 salaries, privileges, allowances, emoluments, benefits, rank and title of a Regional Trial Judge. The Supreme Court shall determine the length of such temporary assignment: *Provided*, That the Judicial and Bar Council shall recommend to the President appointees to the Judges-at-Large positions, after the period of the temporary assignment, the Judicial and Bar Council shall recommend to the President the permanent salary to which the Judge-at-Large shall be appointed."

SEC. 3. 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 that person is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, and, for at least ten (10) 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. 4. 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 Position for Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large.* - Fifty (50) positions of Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large shall duly appointed Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large shall have no permanent salaries and may be assigned by the Supreme Court as acting or assisting judges to any first level court in the Philippines as public interest may require. They shall be entitled to the salaries, privileges,