

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5204, June 15, 1968 ]**

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 24, 32, 33 AND 37 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SIX, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY ACT OF 1948", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Section twenty-four of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 24. *The Court of Appeals.*—The Court of Appeals of the Philippines shall consist of a presiding justice and twenty-three Associate Justices who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress. The Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals shall be so designated in his commission, and the other Justices of the Court shall have precedence according to the date of their respective commissions, or when the commissions of two or more of them shall bear the same date, according to the order in which their commissions have been issued by the President of the Philippines: Provided, however, That any member of the Court of Appeals who has been reappointed to that court after rendering service in any other branch of the government shall retain the precedence to which he is entitled under his original appointment and his service in the court shall, to all intents and purposes, be considered as continuous and uninterrupted.

"The Presiding Justice and the Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals shall not be removed from office except on impeachment upon the grounds and in the manner provided for in Article IX of the Constitution.

"The Court of Appeals shall, as a body, sit in bane, but it may sit in eight divisions of three justices each. The eight divisions may sit at the same time."

SEC. 2. Section thirty-two of the same Act is hereby also amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 32. *Place of holding sessions.*—The Court of Appeals shall have its permanent office in the City of Manila. Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Justice, with the certification of the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals and when public interest demands, the Supreme Court