

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1404, September 09, 1955]

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND 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. The second, third and ninth paragraphs of Section forty-nine of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, are hereby further amended read as follows:

"SEC. 49. *Judicial Districts*.—Judicial districts for Court of First Instance in the Philippines are constituted as follows:

"The First Judicial District shall consist of the Provinces of Cagayan, Batanes, Isabela, and Nueva Vizcaya, and the subprovince of Apayao, Mountain Province;

"The Second Judicial District, of the Provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, City of Baguio, Mountain province, except the subprovince of Apayao, and La Union;

"The Eighth Judicial District, of the Province of Laguna, the City of San Pablo, the Province of Batangas, the City of Lipa, and the Provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro and Marinduque;"

SEC. 2. The first, second, third, sixth, seventh, eleventh, twelfth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth paragraphs of section fifty of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 50. *Judges of First Instance for Judicial Districts*.—Six judges shall be commissioned for the First Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Cagayan, Batanes and the Subprovince of Apayao in the Mountain Province, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively, the judge of the First branch to preside also over the Court of First Instance of the subprovince of Apayao and the judge of the second branch to preside also over the Court of First Instance of Batanes; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Isabela, and shall be known as the judges of the first and second branches thereof; and two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Nueva Vizcaya, to be known as

the judges of the First and Second branches thereof.

"Eight judges shall be commissioned for the Second Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Norte; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Sur; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Abra; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the City of Baguio and Mountain Province, except the subprovinces of Apayao, Kalinga, Bontoc and Ifugao; and two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of La Union and the Subprovinces of Kalinga, Bontoc and Ifugao, and shall be known as judges of the First and Second branches thereof, respectively, the judge of the Second branch to preside also over the Courts of First Instance of the Subprovinces of Kalinga, Bontoc and Ifugao.

"Eight judges shall be commissioned for the Third Judicial District. Seven judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh branches thereof, respectively; the judges of the First and Second branches to preside over the Court of First Instance of Lingayen; the judges of the Third and Fourth branches to preside over the Court of First Instance of the City of Dagupan; the judge of the Fifth branch to preside over the Court of First Instance of Urdaneta; the judge of the Sixth branch to preside over the Court of First Instance of Tayug; and the Judge of the Seventh branch to preside over the Court of First Instance of Alaminos, Pangasinan. One judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zambales.

"Twenty judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial District. They shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Manila and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth branches thereof, respectively.

"Eleven judges shall be commissioned for the Seventh Judicial District. Seven judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Rizal, Quezon City and Pasay City and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh branches thereof, respectively; three judges shall preside over the courts of First Instance of the Province of Cavite and Fe Cities of Cavite and Tagaytay, and shall be known as Judges of the first, second, and third branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the of First Instance of Palawan.

"Eight judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Capiz, Roxas City and Romblon and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively; five judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Iloilo and the City of Iloilo, and shall be known as judges of the first second, third, fourth and fifth branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First

Instance of the Province of Antique.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Twelfth Judicial District. Five judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Occidental Negros and the City of Bacolod, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Oriental Negros, Dumaguete City and the Subprovince of Siquijor.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Fourteenth Judicial District. Six judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Cebu and the City of Cebu, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Bohol.

"Six judges shall be commissioned for the Fifteenth Judicial District. One judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Surigao; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Agusan and Butuan City; two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Oriental Misamis, Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Lanao and the Cities of Dansalan and Iligan, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof.

"Ten judges shall be commissioned for the Sixteenth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Davao and Davao City; two judges shall preside over the Court of First instance of Cotabato, to be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Occidental Misamis and Ozamis City; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga del Norte; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga del Sur; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Zamboanga City and Basilan City; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Sulu.

SEC. 3. Section fifty-one of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 51. *Detail of judge to another district or province.*—Whenever a judge stationed in any province or branch of a court in a province shall certify to the Secretary of Justice that the condition of the docket in his court is such as to require the assistance of an additional judge, or when there is any vacancy in any court or branch of a court in a province, the Secretary of Justice may, in the interest of justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court and for a period of not more than three months for each time, assign any judge of any court or province whose docket permits his temporary absence from said court, to hold sessions in the court needing such assistance or where such vacancy exists. No judge so