

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1605, August 23, 1956]

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY ACT OF NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT."

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, as amended, 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 seventeen 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 dates 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.

"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 banc*, but it may sit in six divisions of three Justices each. The six divisions may sit at the same time.

SEC. 2. Section Twenty-eight of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 28. *Qualifications and compensation of Justices of Court of Appeals.*—The Justices of the Court of Appeals shall have the same qualifications as those provided in the Constitution for members of the Supreme Court, except that no person shall be appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeals unless he has been a Judge of a Court of Record for at least ten years or has been in active actual practice of law before the civil courts for the same period. The Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals shall receive an annual compensation of sixteen thousand pesos, and each Associate Justice, an annual compensation of fifteen thousand pesos."