

[ Act No. 3107, March 17, 1923 ]

**AN ACT TO AMEND AND REPEAL CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATIVE TO THE JUDICIARY IN ORDER TO REORGANIZE THE LATTER; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS; INCREASING THE SALARIES OF JUDGES OF COURTS OF FIRST INSTANCE; VESTING THE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE WITH AUTHORITY TO DETAIL A DISTRICT JUDGE TEMPORARILY TO A DISTRICT OR PROVINCE OTHER THAN HIS OWN; REGULATING THE SALARIES OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE; ABOLISHING THE MUNICIPAL COURT AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT OF THE CITY OF MANILA AND CREATING IN LIEU THEREOF A MUNICIPAL COURT WITH THREE BRANCHES; REGULATING THE SALARIES OF CLERKS OF COURT AND OTHER SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEES OF COURTS OF FIRST INSTANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:*

SECTION 1. Sections one hundred and fifty, one hundred and fifty-three, one hundred and fifty-four, one hundred and fifty-five, one hundred and fifty-six, one hundred and fifty-seven, one hundred and fifty-eight, one hundred and sixty-one, one hundred and sixty-two, one hundred and sixty-three, two hundred and three, two hundred and seven, two hundred and ten, two hundred and thirteen, two hundred and twenty, two hundred and twenty-one, twenty-four hundred and sixty-six, twenty-four hundred and seventy-one, twenty-four hundred and seventy-four, and twenty-four hundred and seventy-seven of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Administrative Code, are hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 150. *Clerks and other subordinate employees of Courts of First Instance.*—Clerks, deputy clerks, assistants, and other subordinate employees of Courts of First Instance shall, for administrative purposes, belong to the Bureau of Justice; but in the performance of their duties they shall be subject to the supervision of the judges of the courts to which they respectively pertain.

"The Clerk of a Court of First Instance may, by special written deputation approved by the judge, authorize any suitable person to act as his special deputy and in such capacity to perform such functions as may be specified in the authority granted."

"SEC. 153. *Judicial Districts.*—Judicial Districts for Courts of First Instance in the Philippine Islands are constituted as follows:

"The First Judicial District shall consist of the Province of Cagayan and the Province of Batanes.

"The Second Judicial District, of the Province of Isabela and the Province

of Nueva Vizcaya.

"The Third Judicial District, of the Province of Ilocos Sur, the Province of Abra, and the Province of Ilocos Norte. "The Fourth Judicial District, of the Province of La Union and the Mountain Province.

"The Fifth Judicial District, of the Province of Pangasinan.

"The Sixth Judicial District, of the Province of Tarlac and the Province of Nueva Ecija.

"The Seventh Judicial District, of the Province of Pampanga and the Province of Bulacan.

"The Eighth Judicial District, of the Province of Bataan and the Province of Zambales.

"The Ninth Judicial District, of the City of Manila. "The Tenth Judicial District, of the Province of Cavite and the Province of Palawan.

"The Eleventh Judicial District, of the Province of Rizal.

"The Twelfth Judicial District, of the Province of Laguna.

"The Thirteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Batangas and the Province of Mindoro.

"The Fourteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Tayabas and the Province of Marinduque.

"The Fifteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Camarines Sur, the Province of Camarines Norte, and the Province of Albay, including the subprovince of Catanduanes.

"The Sixteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Sorsogon and the Province of Masbate.

"The Seventeenth Judicial District, of the Province of Capiz, the Province of Antique and the Province of Romblon.

"The Eighteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Samar.

"The Nineteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Leyte.

"The Twentieth Judicial District, of the Province of Cebu.

"The Twenty-first Judicial District, of the Province of Oriental Negros, including the subprovince of Siquijor, and the Province of Bohol.

"The Twenty-second Judicial District, of the Province of Occidental Negros.

"The Twenty-third Judicial District, of the Province of Iloilo.

"The Twenty-fourth Judicial District, of the Province of Surigao and the Province of Agusan.

"The Twenty-fifth Judicial District, of the Province of Misamis, the Province of Bukidnon, and the Province of Lanao.

"The Twenty-sixth Judicial District, of the Province of Zamboanga and the Province of Sulu.

"The Twenty-seventh Judicial District, of the Province of Davao and the Province of Cotabato."

"SEC. 154. *Judges of First Instance for Judicial Districts.*—One Judge of First Instance shall be commissioned for each judicial district, except the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth, fifteenth, twentieth, and twenty-third.

"For the Third Judicial District there shall be two judges, one of whom shall preside over the Court of the First Instance of the Province of Ilocos Norte and the other over those of the Provinces of Ilocos Sur and Abra.

"For the Fifth Judicial District there shall be two judges who shall be known as judges of the first and second branch, respectively.

"For the Sixth Judicial District there shall be two judges, one of whom shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Nueva Ecija and the other over that of the Province of Tarlac.

"For the Seventh Judicial District there shall be two judges, one of whom shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Pampanga and the other over that of the Province of Bulacan.

"For the Ninth Judicial District there shall be six judges who shall be known as judge of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth branch, respectively.

"For the Fifteenth Judicial District there shall be two judges, one of whom shall preside over the courts of First Instance of the Provinces of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur and the other over those of the Province of Albay and the subprovince of Catanduanes.

"For the Twentieth Judicial District there shall be two judges who shall be known as judge of the first and second branch, respectively.

"For the Twenty-third Judicial District there shall be two judges who shall be known as judges of the first and second branch, respectively.

"For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, a new judge shall be appointed for the Third Judicial District, to preside over

the Courts of First Instance of Ilocos Sur and Abra; another judge shall be appointed for the Fifth Judicial District and shall be known as judge of the second branch of said Court; another judge shall be appointed for the Sixth Judicial District, to preside over the Court of First Instance of Nueva Ecija; another judge shall be appointed for the Seventh Judicial District, to preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Pampanga; two other judges shall be appointed for the Ninth Judicial District and shall be known as judges of the fifth and sixth branch, respectively; another judge shall be appointed for the Fifteenth Judicial District, to preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Albay and the subprovince of Catanduanes; another judge shall be appointed for the Twentieth Judicial District and shall be known as judge of the second branch of said court; and another judge shall be appointed for the Twenty-third Judicial District and shall be known as judge of the second branch of said Court. In provinces with more than one branch, the business of the Court shall be distributed equitably among the Judges of First Instance of such branches, as said judges may agree between themselves. In case of disagreement, the Secretary of Justice shall decide, and said Secretary shall be empowered to promulgate rules for the purpose of preventing conflicts between the several branches."

"SEC. 155. *Detail of judge to another district or province.*—If the public interest and the speedy administration of justice so require, a Judge of First Instance may be detailed by the Secretary of Justice to temporary duty, for a period which shall in no case exceed six months in a district or province other than his own for the purpose of trying all kinds of cases, excepting criminal and election cases."

"SEC. 156. *Permanent stations of Judges of First Instance.*—The permanent station of judges of the Ninth Judicial District shall be in the City of Manila. In districts comprising only one province, the permanent official station of the judge shall be at the capital of the province.

"In other judicial districts, the permanent stations of the judges shall be as follows:

"For the First District, in the municipality of Tuguegarao, Province of Cagayan.

"For the Second District, in the municipality of Ilagan, Province of Isabela.

"For the Third District, one judge shall be stationed in the municipality of Vigan, Province of Ilocos Sur, and the other in the municipality of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte.

"For the Fourth District, in the municipality of San Fernando, Province of La Union.

"For the Sixth District, one judge shall be stationed in the municipality of Cabanatuan, Province of Nueva Ecija, and the other in the

municipality of Tarlac, Province of Tarlac.

"For the Seventh District, one judge shall be stationed in the municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga, and the other in the municipality of Malolos, Province of Bulacan.

"For the Eighth District, in the municipality of Balanga, Province of Bataan.

"For the Tenth District, in the municipality of Cavite, Province of Cavite.

"For the Thirteenth District, in the municipality of Batangas, Province of Batangas.

"For the Fourteenth District, in the municipality of Lucena, Province of Tayabas.

"For the Fifteenth District, one judge shall be stationed in the municipality of Albay, Province of Albay, and the other in the municipality of Naga, Province of Camarines Sur.

"For the Sixteenth District, in the municipality of Sorsogon, Province of Sorsogon.

"For the Seventeenth District, in the municipality of Capiz, Province of Capiz.

"For the Twenty-first District, in the municipality of Dumaguete, Province of Oriental Negros.

"For the Twenty-fourth District, in the municipality of Surigao, Province of Surigao.

"For the Twenty-fifth District, in the municipality of Cagayan, Province of Misamis.

"For the Twenty-sixth District, in the municipality of Zamboanga, Province of Zamboanga.

"For the Twenty-Seventh District, in the municipality of Davao, Province of Davao."

"SEC. 157. *Auxiliary Judges of First Instance.*—There shall be fifteen Auxiliary Judges of First Instance who shall, at the direction of the Secretary of Justice, assist any District Judge, act as substitute for said Judge in cases of his absence, illness or incapacity, and temporarily supply any vacancy that may occur among them. When their services are not required elsewhere, Auxiliary Judges shall hold court at their respective official stations, as hereinafter provided, for the dispatch of any matters there requiring attention: *Provided, however,* That the Secretary of Justice may, in his discretion, issue orders to any auxiliary judge respecting the place where he shall serve."