



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8728

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ALEJANO, REVILLA, VILLANUEVA, PADUANO, GO (M.), ORTEGA (P.), BRAVO (M.V.), ZAMORA (M.C.), AGGABAO, TEJADA, DEL MAR, LOBREGAT, TAN (S.), ALMONTE, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, GONZALEZ, NAVA, MANGAOANG, BULUT-BEGTANG, YU, MARQUEZ, ADIONG, SARMIENTO (E.M.), SILVERIO, LACSON, LAGMAN, CHAVEZ, CAMINERO, MONTORO, UYBARRETA, ACOP, VIOLAGO, ABAYA, ESPINO AND YAP (M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1007

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AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2 “Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to  
4 pursue programs and projects that promote environmental  
5 protection, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, poverty  
6 reduction and food security. To this end, the educational system  
7 shall be a locus for propagating ethical and sustainable use of  
8 natural resources among the young to ensure the cultivation of a  
9 socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

1           SEC. 3. *Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for*  
2 *Graduation.* – All graduating students from grade school, high  
3 school and college shall be required to plant at least ten (10) trees as  
4 a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. Said trees shall be  
5 their living legacy to the environment and to future generations of  
6 Filipinos.

7           SEC. 4. *Location.* – The trees to be planted under this Act  
8 shall be located in any of the following areas:

- 9           (a) Forestlands;  
10           (b) Mangrove and protected areas;  
11           (c) Ancestral domains;  
12           (d) Civil and military reservations;  
13           (e) Urban areas under the greening plan of the local  
14 government units (LGUs);  
15           (f) Inactive and abandoned mine sites; and  
16           (g) Other suitable lands.

17           SEC. 5. *Preference for Indigenous Species.* – The planted  
18 species of trees should be appropriate to the location, climate and  
19 topography of the area with preference for the planting of  
20 indigenous species.

21           SEC. 6. *Partner Agencies/Stakeholders.* – The Department  
22 of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education  
23 (CHED) shall implement the provisions of this Act, in partnership  
24 with the following agencies:

- 25           (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
26 (DENR);  
27           (b) Department of Agriculture (DA);

- 1 (c) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- 2 (d) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- 3 (e) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 4 (f) Department of Health (DOH);
- 5 (g) Department of Transportation (DOTr);
- 6 (h) Department of National Defense (DND);
- 7 (i) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 8 (j) Department of Justice (DOJ);
- 9 (k) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- 10 (l) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- 11 (TESDA); and
- 12 (m) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
- 13 (PAGCOR).

14 The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

- 15 (1) Nursery establishment;
- 16 (2) Seedling production and site preparation;
- 17 (3) Site identification;
- 18 (4) Monitoring and evaluation;
- 19 (5) Provision of security, transportation, fire protection
- 20 amenities and medical support; and
- 21 (6) Technical support and extension services.

22 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd  
23 and the CHED, in coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in  
24 consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate and issue the  
25 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to implement  
26 this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.

1           SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry  
2 out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budgets  
3 of the implementing departments/agencies in the annual General  
4 Appropriations Act.

5           SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive  
6 orders, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or  
7 parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act  
8 are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

9           SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – Should any portion or  
10 provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a  
11 competent court, the other provisions hereof shall continue to be in  
12 full force and effect.

13           SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
14 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
15 general circulation.

Approved,

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