

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7596
(In substitution to HB No. 4434)

Introduced by Representatives Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano, Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Solomon R. Chungalao, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Michael Edgar V. Aglipay, and Angelo Marcos Barba

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2 **AN ACT**

3 **PROVIDING MECHANISMS THAT SHALL ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE**
4 **IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10176, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
5 **"ARBOR DAY ACT OF 2012"**
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7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
8 *assembled:*
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10 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10176 is amended to read as follows:

11 **"SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
12 State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
13 ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the
14 vital role and importance of trees in ecological stability is recognized. Hence,
15 there is a need for a collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to
16 combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by
17 **REHABILITATING DEGRADED FOREST LAND AREAS, IMPROVING**
18 **SOIL FERTILITY AND LAND PRODUCTIVITY, AND REDUCING SOIL**
19 **EROSION ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AND UPLAND AREAS,**

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1 undertaking nationwide tree planting activities and providing effective measures
2 for their maintenance and sustainability.

3 “It is hereby mandated that all provinces, cities and municipalities with their
4 component barangays shall be required to revive, by appropriate proclamation of
5 their respective local chief executives, an Arbor Day at an appropriate fixed date
6 every calendar year as shall be deemed suitable according to the proper time and
7 season for planting trees in the respective provinces and their respective component
8 municipalities or cities concerned. Although adoption of uniform dates for every
9 province and its component municipalities and cities shall be encouraged, varying
10 dates for Arbor Day celebrations may be permitted in order to afford flexibility in
11 planning and in implementing tree planting programs to adjust to the proper time
12 and period of the year most suited to the trees selected to be planted, and as local
13 budgetary allotments shall allow.”

14 **SEC. 2.** Section 9 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

15 “**SEC. 9. *Areas Covered by Tree Planting.* – THE DENR SHALL**
16 **IDENTIFY SUITABLE AREAS IN EACH LGU TO BE PLANTED TO**
17 **VARIOUS SPECIES OF TREES AND PLANTS, INCLUDING BAMBOO.**
18 **THE DENR SHALL ALSO ENSURE THAT NATIONAL GREENING**
19 **PROGRAM SITES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY AND CITY SHALL**
20 **CONTINUE TO PROPAGATE AND PLANT VARIOUS SPECIES TO**
21 **ENHANCE EXISTING VEGETATION.**

22 “The local Arbor Day Celebrations Committee shall [specify] **SELECT**
23 the area within the LGU to be planted or reforested **FROM AMONG THE**
24 **AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE DENR AS SUITABLE FOR THESE**
25 **PURPOSES.**

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1 “If the area to be planted or reforested is a protected area or a protection
2 forest, the Committee shall encourage the use of endemic or indigenous species
3 during the observance of the Arbor Day designated by the LGU.

4 “The tree planting activities shall be done in any of the following areas:

5 “(a) Public school grounds, gardens or other available areas within the
6 school premises;

7 “(b) Idle or vacant public lands;

8 “(c) Public parks in urban and rural areas; and

9 “(d) Private schools, parks and lands with the consent of the owner
10 thereof.”

11 **SEC. 3.** A new Section 11-A is inserted after Section 11 of the same Act to read as
12 follows:

13 **“SEC. 11-A. ANNUAL REPORTS. – THE DILG SHALL MONITOR**
14 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AND SUBMIT AN ANNUAL**
15 **REPORT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
16 **CREATED UNDER SECTION 11-B HEREIN ON THE COMPLIANCE OF**
17 **LGUs WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.**

18 **“THE DENR SHALL ALSO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO**
19 **THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE AREAS IT**
20 **HAS IDENTIFIED IN EACH LGU THAT ARE SUITABLE TO TREE**
21 **PLANTING AND REFORESTATION.”**

22 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 11-B is inserted after Section 11-A of the same Act to read as
23 follows:

24 **“SEC. 11-B. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. – A**
25 **CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED**
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1 TO MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
2 ACT. IT SHALL BE CO-CHAIRLED BY THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE
3 COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, AND SHALL HAVE AS
5 MEMBERS THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
6 REFORESTATION AND COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
7 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE CHAIRPERSON
8 AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON
9 ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE
10 OF THE SENATE.

11 THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL
12 PRESCRIBE AND ADOPT GUIDELINES WHICH SHALL GOVERN ITS
13 WORK. IT SHALL EXERCISE ALL THE POWERS NECESSARY AND
14 INCIDENTAL TO ATTAIN THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS
15 CREATED. IT SHALL REVIEW THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
16 DILG AND DENR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”

17 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
18 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19 *Approved,*