

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3809



Introduced by **HONORABLE SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the importance of preserving our natural resources so that the present generation may adequately utilize it without compromising the natural resource requirement of future generations. Thus, it declares under Art. II Section 16, "that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature".

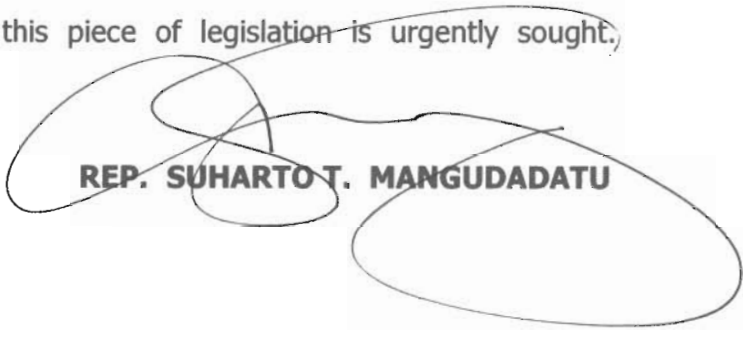
Our virgin forests are being consumed at a very alarming rate. At the turn of the century, we had 15 million hectares of virgin forests, about half of our total land area. Today, we have less than one million. Our total forest cover of 6.5 million hectares has been drastically lost at the rate of 200,000 hectares a year. At the rate we consume our forest reserves, we shall not have a single hectare of forest left in about 30 years.

Thus, there is an urgent need to conserve and replenish our timber lands so that we may still have something in store for the next generation. In addition, massive reforestation averts the possible adverse consequences of indiscriminate forest denudation.

With the present scale of watershed damage, we cannot just allow nature to take its course in the replenishment of our forests. The present move of environmentalists, government and non-government agencies on reforestation is likewise not sufficient to address the alarming rate of forests destruction. Hence this bill, which basically taps the participation of a sizable portion of the youth sector.

Specifically, this bill requires all high school students to plant five trees a year as a prerequisite for graduation from high school. This measure serves a two-fold purpose. It imbibes ecological consciousness to the young and provides a practical approach in the preservation of nature as a vital factor in our development efforts.

Hence, the passage of this piece of legislation is urgently sought.



REP. SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PLANT FIVE TREES AS
A PRE-CONDITION FOR THEIR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL

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

SECTION 1. Requirement – (a) all high school students, whether enrolled in private or public educational institution, are hereby required to plant five trees a year as a condition for their graduation in high school (b) All 5th, 6th, and 7th grade pupils as preparatory for their graduation in the elementary shall plant/grow seedling as apart of their shop work.

SECTION 2. Certification from School principal and Barangay Clearance – An elementary and high school student shall not be issued a certificate of graduation unless he/she first secures a certification indicating compliance with the requirement in Section 1 of this Act.

a) Prior to graduation in high school, student shall secure the Certification from barangay chairman in which she/he resides and where tree planting was done.

b) Elementary pupil shall secure from their respective school principal.

SECTION 3. (a) Tree planting shall be done in other public places as determined by the DepEd in coordination with the DENR. (b) Then the person in charge of the tree planting activity issue such certification.

SECTION 4. Implementing rules and regulation – The Department of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Repealing clause – All laws, degrees, rules and regulation, which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of Act. Are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in Filipino and English in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,