

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 971

Introduced by REP. AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is well endowed of natural resources, both land and water. But because of human activities that abuse and neglect the beauty and wealth of our nature, we now face the problem of imbalanced ecosystem. Such problem is the denudation of our forests and destruction of our mountains which can be attributed to unregulated loggings and the practice of slash-and-burn farming. This problem is contributory to the various calamities the country has been experiencing for the past years that brought destructive landslides and flashfloods causing major devastation to lives and properties.

It is time that we care about our environment and the future of the next generation. This measure seeks to revive Arbor Day by vesting in the local government units with their component barangays the responsibilities of celebrating Tree Planting Day annually. This bill encourages the beautification of the communities while promoting healthful and greener environment. The bill further promotes the participation of students, out of school youth, government employees and the private sector in protecting the environment.

With the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
2nd District, Province of Iloilo

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE THE REVIVAL OF ARBOR DAY BY VESTING IN PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THEIR COMPONENT BARANGAYS THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CELEBRATING THE DAY FOR TREE PLANTING AS AN ANNUAL EVENT

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

SECTION 1. In order to emphasize the imperative necessity for maintaining proper ecological balance, for encouraging the beautification of communities and creating more healthful environments, it is hereby mandated that all provinces, cities and municipalities with their component barangays shall be required to revive, by appropriate proclamation of their respective local chief executives, an Arbor Day at an appropriate fixed date every calendar year as shall be deemed suitable according to the proper time and season for planting trees in the respective provinces and their respective component municipalities or cities concerned. Although adoption of uniform dates for every province and its component municipalities and the cities shall be encouraged, varying dates for Arbor Day celebrations may be permitted in order to afford flexibility in planning and in implementing tree-planting programs to adjust to the proper time and period of the year most suited to the trees selected to be planted, and as local budgetary allotments shall allow.

SEC. 2. In implementing the intents of this Act, there shall be created in every province, city and municipality an Arbor Day Celebrations Committee, the composition of which shall be selected or designated by the local chief executive concerned. The members of said committee shall preferably consist of officers based in the locality, representing, but not limited to:

- (a) The local sanggunian;
- (b) The local Environment and Natural Resources Office;
- (c) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- (d) The Department of Education;
- (e) The Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- (f) The Department of Agriculture;
- (g) The Department of Agrarian Reform;

- o (h) The Department of Public Works and Highways;
- (i) The Department of Tourism;
- (j) The Philippine National Police;
- (k) The Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- (l) The Philippine Coconut Authority;
- (m) Civic organizations;
- (n) Youth organizations;
- (o) Liga ng mga barangays; and
- (p) Media associations.

SEC. 3. In order to assure active participation of students, out-of-school youths and employees of the government and private sectors, the Arbor Day designated every calendar year by each and every local government unit may be declared as a public holiday and such declaration may be embodied in the appropriate proclamation that local chief executives are in this Act authorized to do.

SEC. 4. The local sanggunian shall promulgate the rules and regulations, including the allocation of resources pertinent to the implementation of this Act at their respective local government level. For information and monitoring purposes, the respective local government units shall submit to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), copy furnished the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the official date of the specified Arbor Day.

SEC. 5. The DILG, in coordination with the DENR, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,