



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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3225

Introduced by : **Honorable GEORGE P. ARNAIZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Southeast Asia holds more diverse flora and fauna than Europe, but it is in danger losing its biodiversity. It has natural habitats of up to 40 percent of all species existing on the planet. A single small tropical-forest patch anywhere in this region, covering just a couple of hundred hectares, might support more bird and mammal species than there are in the whole of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany combined.

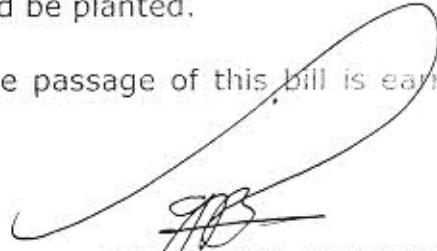
However, the flora and fauna of the region are increasingly under threat. Annually, ASEAN loses one percent of its forest cover, a figure four times higher than the world average. There are more than 150 endangered species in the Philippines alone. Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia were among the world's top mega-diverse countries. At the same time, the three Asean nations were also among 25 biodiversity hotspots or places at risk of species loss.

The region's continued biodiversity loss is due to extensive deforestation and habitat loss, widespread conversion of land for agriculture or urban and industrial development, and the continuing rapid population growth. Southeast Asia could have three-fourths less forest cover and 42 percent less biodiversity by 2010 at the current rate of logging, forest fires and problematic land use, among others. Today, more trees are being felled due to shifting agricultural practices, illegal lumber trade and large-scale mining. Further, global warming and climate change are environmental phenomena intertwined with the world's decreasing biodiversity. The loss of biodiversity is making climate change more complicated which poses threat on the planet's marine and plant life.

This bill seeks to address the problem of biodiversity loss by requiring every student to plant 10 trees every year. To date, there are 2.4 million tertiary students, 6 million in the secondary level,

and 13 million in the primary level. Hence, in just a year, an additional 214,000,000 trees would be planted.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



GEORGE P. ARNAIZ



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AN ACT
TO REQUIRE EVERY STUDENT TO PLANT TREES EVERY YEAR

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the state to protect and preserve biodiversity in the country.

Section 2. Requirement of Planting Ten (10) Trees Every Year. – To protect and preserve biodiversity in the country, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall require every student to plant ten (10) trees every year in an area to be designated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) where the school is located.

Section 3. Appropriations. - The necessary budget to implement this Act shall be included in the 2011 budget of the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education.

Section 4. Rules and Regulation. - The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separate from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,