

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 429



Introduced by **REP. ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Worldwide Fund asserted that "the Philippines is considered as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. With impacts ranging from extreme weather events and periodic inundation to droughts and food scarcity, climate change has been a constant reality that many Filipinos have had to face".

While there have been laudable efforts from the government to implement both adaptation and risk reduction programs, there must still be an active effort to instill the urgency to care for the environment to the people, especially among the youth.

This bill seeks to amend and add provisions in Republic Act 10176 that would heighten public awareness on the issue of climate change and environment protection. Specifically, the bill sets the last Monday of June as the annual Arbor Day and mandates public elementary and high schools to observe Arbor Day. The involvement of young people in environment programs is a step towards sustainability of government interventions on environment protection.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

429

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **REP. ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ**

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10176, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT REVIVING THE OBSERVANCE OF ARBOR DAY BY AUTHORIZING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CELEBRATING THE DAY FOR TREE PLANTING AS AN ANNUAL EVENT"

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

SECTION 1. Second paragraph of Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10176 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. x x x

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,] **LEAD IN THE OBSERVATION OF** 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 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.] **IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND ALLOCATE NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR THE PREPARATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.**

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10176 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Proclamation of Arbor Day. – All provinces, cities and municipalities with their component barangays shall be required to declare **THE LAST MONDAY OF**

THE MONTH OF JUNE EVERY YEAR an Arbor Day or Tree Planting Day [, by appropriate proclamation of their respective local chief executive through an ordinance passed by the respective local sanggunian, at a fixed date every calendar year as shall be deemed conducive to the proper time and season for planting trees in the respective localities. Although adoption of uniform dates for its celebration shall be encouraged, varying dates may be allowed in order to afford flexibility in the planning and implementing of the programs for tree planting:] Provided, That the Arbor Day designated shall be declared as a public working holiday in order to ensure the participation of the different sectors of society and such declaration may be embodied in the proclamation that local chief executives are authorized to do under this Act.

SEC. 3. There shall be two new Sections inserted after Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10176 to read as follows:

“SECTION 11. OBSERVATION OF ARBOR DAY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – THE DEPED SHALL MANDATE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS TO DECLARE A WHOLE DAY HOLIDAY TO OBSERVE ARBOR DAY. SCHOOLS SHALL REQUIRE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS. EACH STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PLANT A MINIMUM OF TEN (10) SEEDLINGS PER YEAR IN AREAS DETERMINED BY THEIR LGUs.

SECTION 12. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. – THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AS THE LEAD AGENCY THAT WILL ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS, IS HEREBY GIVEN AUTHORITY TO FORGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE ARBOR DAY.”

“SECTION 13. APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE FUNDING OF THE SEEDLINGS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL BE FUNDED OUT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE BPI AND PCA AND THE REFORESTATION PROGRAM OF DENR UNDER THE CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THEREAFTER, THIS ITEM SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.”

SEC. 4. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10176 is hereby renumbered as Section 13 and all succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, DENR, DEPED and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revised or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or provisions thereof not so declared shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,