

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 745



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is reported that two hundred (200) Filipinos are born every hour. This translates to roughly 1.75 million Filipinos being born yearly. On the other hand, it is estimated that three (3) billion to six (6) billion trees per year are felled. This translates to 1.62 trees per person per year.

Considering the exponential increase in the Philippine population and the continuous cutting of trees to supply the demand of the economy, there will come a time that the person to tree ratio will be reduced to nil. To arrest this alarming situation, this measure aims to protect our patrimony and to ensure that the future generation will still have a beautiful green Philippines to live in.

This measure was previously filed by Senator Villar in the 15th Congress. Immediate Passage of this Bill is sought now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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745
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THAT A TREE BE PLANTED FOR EVERY CHILD BORN IN
THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "A Tree For Every Child Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State recognizes its policy to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 3. A Tree for every Child. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a child is hereby mandated to plant a tree for their every child born in the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Local Government Units, Cities. - All Local Government Units (LGU) where tree planting activities are conducted shall issue a certification that such tree is planted in behalf of the child. The Certification, shall be, for all intents and purposes, the primary evidence that there is a tree planted in his/her behalf.

SECTION 5. Requirement in School Admission. In addition to the prescribed minimum standards for admission by the respective schools, the Certification, as provided in Section 4, shall be required prior to the admission of the concerned child.

SECTION 6. Penalty. - The penalty of Three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) to Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) shall be imposed on any person, LGU who shall issue a false certification as provided in Section 4 hereof. Any school or institution found violating Section 5 shall be fined with Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) on the first instance, Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) on the second instance and on the third or succeeding instances, the School's

license to operate shall be revoked without prejudice to the criminal prosecution of its officers and employees. Violation of any provision of this Act shall subject the government official or employee concerned to appropriate administrative, civil and/or criminal sanctions, including suspension and/or dismissal from the government service and forfeiture of benefits.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act Shall be included and incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations of the various agencies of the government involved in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause - If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause - All laws, orders, rules or regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,