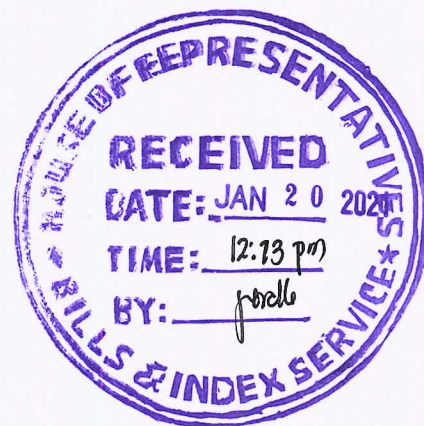




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8431

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA and DOMINGO C. RIVERA

AN ACT
MANDATING THE SUBMISSION OF A GREENING PLAN AS A
REQUIREMENT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic can most likely be attributed to environmental degradation. Experts believe that the pandemic, which is now felt all over the world, is a consequence of the disturbance of ecosystems by humans, which ended with the transmission of a pathogen to a human population.¹ As of January 7 2021, 87,231,223 persons have already been infected with COVID-19, and some 1,884,312 persons have died from the virus.² Meanwhile, as of January 6, 2021, there are 480,737 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, with 9,347 fatalities.³

Ironically, this same pandemic has caused further destruction of nature. Medical waste alone generated by the Philippines has increased from 12,495 metric tons to 19,187 metric tons from April 29, 2020 to July 22, 2020.⁴

These environmental problems brought about by the pandemic, which we are yet to know the duration, demands the unity among the government and the people to boost ecological sustainability.

¹ <https://www.crowtherlab.com/covid-19-and-the-environment-causes-and-consequences/>

² <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

³ <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

⁴ <https://earthjournalism.net/stories/in-the-philippines-medical-waste-piles-up-as-covid-19-cases-rise>

This bill seeks to mandate the submission of a greening plan prior to the issuance of a building permit. Under this bill, a greening plan, must include a short-term, mid-term, and long-term plan on the conservation of the areas subject of the tree-planting or greening program, such as the maintenance of the tree cover, the replenishment of seedlings, protection against calamities, soil erosion, and other environmental factors, monitoring mechanisms, and other details pertinent to the implementation of the greening plan. This measure also lays the blueprint for the promotion of green design and architecture for future projects.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA


HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Urban Greening Act."
2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the State to promote urban
4 greening by requiring applicants of a building permit to create and execute a greening
5 plan in line with the constitutional directive to protect and advance the right of the
6 people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of
7 nature.
8

9 **SEC. 3. Requirement of Greening Plan.** – All applicants for building permits of any
10 development project are required to submit a greening plan, in addition to other
11 requirements imposed by local government units. The greening plan shall also be
12 required for the alteration, repair, or conversion of buildings which require a building
13 permit.
14

15 **SEC. 4. Contents of Greening Plan.** – The greening plan shall include, but not be
16 limited to, the following:
17

18 a. The total land area of the building project;

- 1
2 b. The lay-out of the land area devoted for tree-planting or greening within the land
3 area of the building program or project, which should be at least 20 percent of
4 the latter; *Provided*, that floor areas in a multi-storey building project may be
5 counted to fulfill the 20 percent requirement.
6
7 c. The species of the trees or plants to be included in the design, which shall take
8 into account the biodiversity of the area or locality where the building project is
9 situated;
10
11 d. The plan shall take into consideration the recommendations and best practices
12 on the use of plant species, and other relevant greening methodologies in the
13 area concerned from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
14 (DENR), the local government unit where the building project is located, experts
15 from the academe, the scientific community, non-government organizations, the
16 members of the community, and other stakeholders concerned; and
17
18 e. A short-term, mid-term, and long-term plan on the conservation of the areas
19 subject of the tree-planting or greening program, such as the maintenance of the
20 tree cover, the replenishment of seedlings, protection against calamities, soil
21 erosion, and other environmental factors, monitoring mechanisms, and other
22 details pertinent to the implementation of the greening plan.
23

24 **SEC. 5. Requirement of Indigenous Species.** – The greening plan required under
25 this Act shall include indigenous species of trees, plants, or shrubs, taking into account
26 the recommendations of the DENR and other stakeholders mentioned in Section 4(d)
27 of this Act, as well as the location, climate, and topography of the area.
28

29 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DENR, in coordination with
30 the Department of Interior and Local Government, the unions of local government
31 units, and other relevant stakeholders, shall formulate the implementing rules and
32 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within 120 days after the
33 effectivity of this Act.
34

35 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or any
36 part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
37

38 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared
39 unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts hereof
40 which shall remain in full force and effect.
41

42 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
43 the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever
44 comes earlier.
45

46 **Approved**