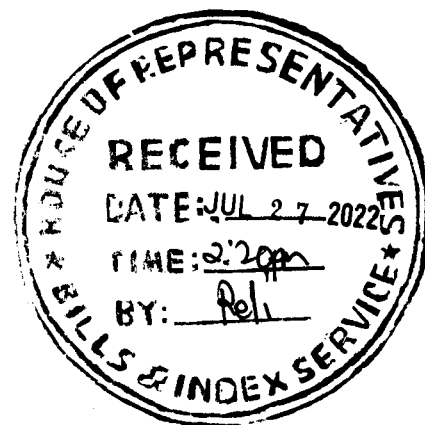


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **2497**



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE DANTE S. GARCIA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Climate change is now one of the most serious problems and greatest global threat that need to be addressed. It is incumbent upon every Filipino to have that responsibility to find solutions that will mitigate or totally eradicate, the damaging consequences of climate change.

This bill seeks to alleviate the effects of global warming and climate change by requiring the planting of trees in residential, commercial, and public buildings, as well as in industrial establishments. Planting trees is one of the best and effective options to fight climate change.

  
**DANTE S. GARCIA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> district, La Union

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE SUBMISSION OF A TREE PLANTING PLAN AS A**  
**REQUIREMENT IN THE APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMITS**

*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 “Green Measures Act”.

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote the planting of trees to enhance environmental quality, mitigate the effects of climate change, and preserve the environment for present and future generations.

**SEC. 3. *Tree Planting Requirement for Permits.*** – All applicants for building permits of residential, commercial, industrial and public building development projects are hereby mandated to submit a Tree Planting Plan (TPP) in addition to other requirements imposed by local government units.

Any person, firm, corporation, department, office, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government intending to construct, alter, repair or convert any

building or structure, is required to set aside, and properly maintain in said property, areas adequate for planting and maintaining trees and flora.

The TPP shall be a simple plan containing the following:

- a) Total area of the project;
- b) Indicative lay-out of the area/s to be planted;
- c) Number of trees to be planted, taking into account the ratio of at least one (1) tree for every five hundred (500) square meters for commercial or industrial projects or one (1) tree for every two hundred fifty (250) square meters for housing and development projects;
- d) Species to be planted; and
- e) Construction and design of said areas for trees and flora, which shall give emphasis to the façade of the structure and all communal areas.

**SEC. 4. *Preference for Indigenous Species.*** - The TPP required under Section 3 hereof, shall give preference to indigenous species of trees, taking into account the location, climate and topography of the area. However, the use of non-vigorously growing endemic ornamental plants or trees and fruit bearing trees is recommended for residential lots.

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

**SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other provisions hereof shall continue to be enforced.

**SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or part or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*