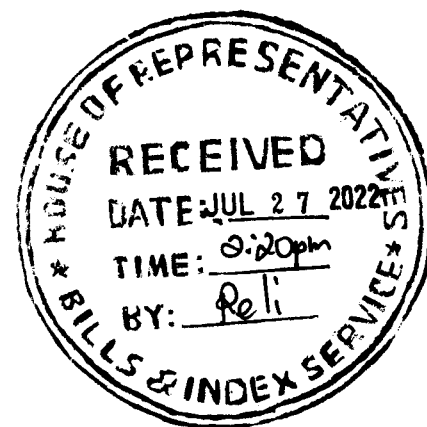


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2498



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE DANTE S. GARCIA**

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.” The citizenry also has the responsibility to achieve the nation’s goal and visions.

To develop people’s awareness on the effects of climate change and the reforestation crusade of the State, it is imperative to encourage tree planting as part of every citizen’s concern and responsibility, and make them partners in the solution for global warming.

This bill which mandates all graduating senior high school and college students to plant two (2) trees each as a prerequisite for graduation has already been approved by the House of Representatives on its 3rd reading in the 17th and 18th Congresses.

Further, to promote and pursue environmental protection, food security, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, the urgent passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


DANTE S. GARCIA
2nd District, La Union

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2498

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE DANTE S. GARCIA**

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Graduation Legacy for Reforestation Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree planting as a means of involving the youth in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. *Tree Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.* - As an act of public service before they join the country’s labor force, all graduating students in senior high school and college shall plant at least two (2) trees as a prerequisite for graduation.

SEC. 4. *Tree Planting Sites* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall determine the appropriate

tree planting sites within the local government's respective areas, in coordination with schools, colleges and universities.

SEC. 5. *Preference for Indigenous Species.* - The species of trees to be planted should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species.

SEC. 6. *Partner Agencies and Stakeholders.* - The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement the provisions of this Act, in partnership with the following agencies:

- (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- (b) Department of Agriculture (DA)
- (c) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- (e) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- (f) National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

1. Establishment of nursery and seedling preparation
2. Site identification and preparation
3. Technical support and extension services
4. Monitoring and evaluation

SEC. 7. *Provisions of Seedlings.* - The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with LGUs throughout the Philippines shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be used in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DepEd, and CHED, in coordination with DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate

and issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments and agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,