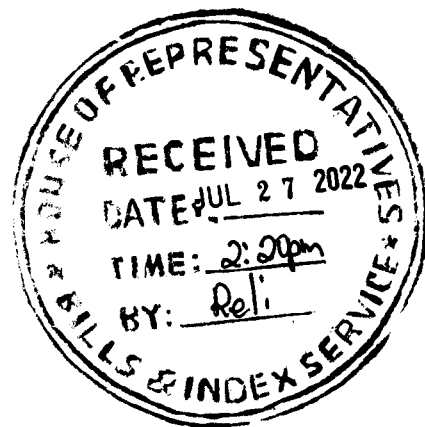


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **2499**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE DANTE S. GARCIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to require parents to plant two (2) trees for every child born to them, has already been approved by the House of Representatives on its 3rd reading in the 17th and 18th Congresses.

As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the earth, they trap the sun's heat. This leads to global warming and climate change. Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and pose many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on earth. Changes in temperature causes changes in rainfall, which result to more severe and frequent storms, flooding and landslides. It is said that reforestation is one of the best solutions to fight climate change.

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

In view of the foregoing, 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
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2499

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE DANTE S. GARCIA

AN ACT
REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM 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 “Family Tree Planting 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 part of the family’s responsibility and legacy to protect the environment and conserve our natural resources for the future generation.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Tree Planting.* - All parents residing in the Philippines whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant two (2) trees for every child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their own home or in an area to be designated by the Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The planted species should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species and fruit-bearing trees.

SEC. 4. *Provision 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 local government units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be provided to parents planting the tree under this Act.

SEC. 5. *Tree Planting as a Requirement for Birth Certificate Release.* - To ensure compliance with this Act, the Local Civil Registry where the birth of the child shall be registered, must only release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child upon the presentation of the parents' sworn statement of compliance. The affidavit must be sworn to before the Punong Barangay if the trees were planted within the premises of the barangay; or before the DENR officer concerned if the trees were planted in a government-designated area outside the barangay where the family resides. Planting of the trees must be done within thirty (30) days after the child's birth.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* The DENR Secretary shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DENR shall, in consultation with the DA, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other portions or provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,