



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4813



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

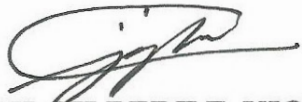
This commendable bill had been filed in the past Congress and the present proponent is acknowledging the wisdom and hard work of his predecessors.

Philippines is one of the countries affected by climate change which should be addressed because of its impact like changing weather conditions, public health risks, threat to food security and biodiversity.

Planting trees is one solution to combat climate change because of the invaluable contribution of trees to the environment and all living things on this planet. Trees help in removing carbon dioxide from the air, it stores carbon in trees and soil and releases oxygen in the atmosphere. It also helps prevent soil erosion which is vital in preventing floods. Other benefits from tree planting are it encourages wildlife, and helps replace old trees.

This bill seeks to require parents to plant two trees for every child born to them. While it is the duty of the State to protect the people, the people have the responsibility to help the State in solving its problems which includes climate change. Requiring parents to plant trees will be their contribution to the State wherein they themselves and their children will also benefit from it.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this measure is sought.


JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO



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AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD
BORN TO THEM

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Family Tree Planting Act”.

SECTION 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 generations.

SECTION 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 high value crops.

SECTION 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 and serve as a ready source of seedlings to be provided to parent/s planting the trees under this Act.

SECTION 5. *Tree Planting as a Requirement for Birth Certificate Release.* – To ensure compliance with this Act, the City or Municipal 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 their 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules or regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or superseded or amended accordingly.

SECTION 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,