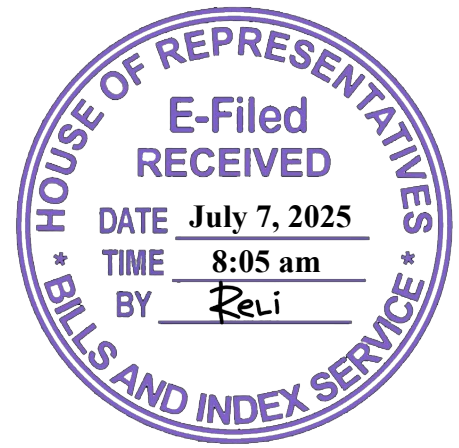


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1324**



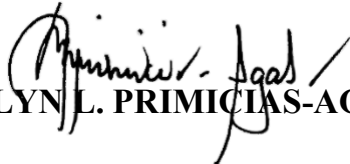
Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill which 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 and final reading in the 18th and 19th Congress.

This bill has for its purpose the inclusion of every Filipino family in the country's national reforestation and greening programs. Consistent with the State's mandate to harness every available resource to safeguard the declining ecological balance, it is but indispensable to plant more trees as effective counter-measure against climate change. We have experienced the disastrous effects of climate change as reflected in unpredictable weather conditions, typhoons, floods, rising sea water levels and other calamities. We have seen the vanishing forest covers in our mountains. We have experienced, time and again, the loss of lives attributed to mankind's own doing. Lives and properties have been lost and will continue to rise if we will not do something to prevent, if not mitigate the effects of climate change. It is high time to introduce additional legislative measures to protect mother nature. To address these environmental challenges, it is essential that every citizen, especially parents, take an active role in contributing to the restoration of the environment.

A simple contribution to mitigate the effects of climate change is hereby proposed: tree planting for every child born to couples. With the foregoing considerations, the approval of the bill is earnestly requested.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. **1324**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative 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 designated by the Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of Environment and Nature 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.

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 and will serve as ready source of seedlings to be provided to parent/s planting the tree under this Act.

SEC. 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.

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 Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), promulgate the implementing rules and regulation 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 15 general circulation.

Approved.