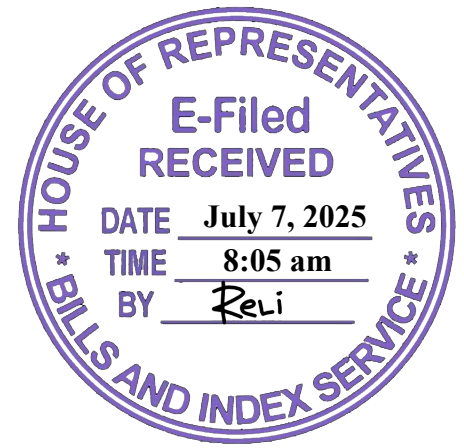


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1325**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill which seeks to require each graduating elementary, high school, and college student to plant at least ten (10) trees as a prerequisite for graduation has already been approved by the House of Representatives on its 3rd and final reading in the 17th, 18th and 19th Congress. On account of the bill's importance in our battle against climate change, this bill is being filed.

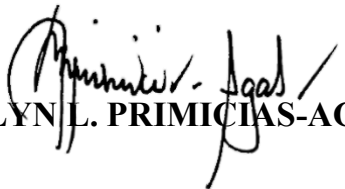
Today, the biggest threat we face is climate change. It is real as the rise in global temperature over the last decade is now a concern of every government worldwide. If one may ask, is it bad? The answer is no. It is worse. Unlike decades back, no political candidate in the country can now run a house-to-house campaign at 1:00 in the afternoon without getting fried in the open. It is now becoming hotter and drier every year. Even the sea level is now rising up as a result of global warming, not to mention extreme flooding in recent years. If we will allow climate change to run unchecked, there won't be much of us left in the future. The issue is survival.

The Philippines is known for its rich biodiversity, but over the years, the country has experienced alarming deforestation and environmental degradation. The loss of forests has led to a decline in air quality, disrupted ecosystems, and contributed significantly to the growing effects of climate change. In the face of this crisis, it is essential to initiate efforts that not only raise environmental awareness but also involve the youth in tangible actions that can help restore and protect our natural resources. There is a need for us to individually and collectively adopt measures which can mitigate the effects of climate change or global warming.

One such measure is to require everyone to plant a tree. In this legislative measure, all graduating students from elementary to college will be required to plant at least ten (10) trees as pre-requisite for graduation. With millions of graduating students each year, we are looking forward to the equivalent number of trees planted per year. This is one way of requiring everyone to actively participate in mitigating the growing effects of climate change. By incorporating this environmental responsibility into the educational system, the

bill aims to create a culture of sustainability, empower young Filipinos to actively participate in environmental conservation, and help address the country's pressing environmental challenges. This is one step forward for our survival.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1325**

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

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH AS A
PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION

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 the Environment Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to pursue programs and projects that promote environmental protection, biodiversity climate change mitigation, poverty reduction and food security. To this end, the educational system shall be a focus for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among the young to ensure the cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

SEC. 3. Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation. – All Graduating students from grade school, high school and college shall be required to plant at least ten (10) trees as a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. Said trees shall be their living legacy to the environment and to future generations of Filipinos.

Sec. 4. Location - The trees to be planted under this Act shall be located in any of the following areas:

- (a) Forestlands;
- (b) Mangrove and Protected areas;
- (c) Ancestral domains;
- (d) Civil and military reservations;
- (e) Urban areas under the greening plan of the Local Government units (LGUs);

(f) inactive and abandoned mine sites; and

(g) Other suitable lands.

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

Sec. 6. Partner Agencies/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 Agrarian Reform (DAR);

(d) Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

(e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);

(f) Department of Health (DOH);

(g) Department of Transportation (DOTr);

(h) Department of National Defense (DND);

(i) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

(j) Department of Justice (DOJ);

(k) National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP);

(l) Technical Education and Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and

(m) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

(1) Nursery establishment;

(2) Seedling production and site preparation;

(3) Site identification and site preparation;

(4) Monitoring and evaluation;

(5) Provision of security, transportation, fire protection amenities and medical support;

and

(6) Technical support and extension services.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulation* - The DepEd and the CHED, in coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations*. - The Amount necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments/agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SEC. 10. *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 in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,