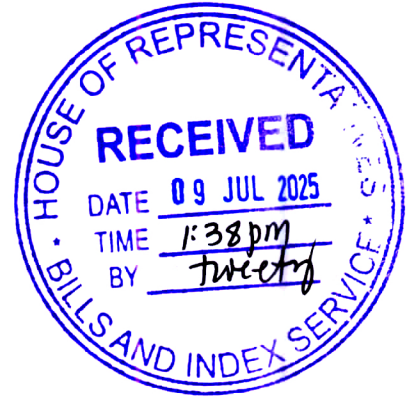




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **1649**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the Philippines get up to 4,064 millimeters of rain annually. This much rain, worsened by deforestation, is expected to cause massive floods and landslides in different areas of the country. Apart from flood control projects of the government, it is also important that more trees be planted to help mitigate the impacts of heavy rainfall.

Less than a year ago, Super Typhoon Carina struck the Philippines and claimed the lives of at least 34 Filipinos.¹ Heavy rains were also experienced in several parts of Mindanao and Luzon causing floods by early January 2025.

This bill seeks to teach the young generations how to take care of the environment and instill patriotism. By making them do something which the next generation will be the main benefactors, today's young people will feel that they are a part of something bigger than themselves. The trees they planted will serve as a constant reminder that they shall always take care of the environment. No financial burden shall be passed onto the students as the seedlings to be planted shall be provided by the government.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental

¹ <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/7/26/habagat-carina-death-toll-hits-34-pnp-1617>



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HOUSE BILL NO. **1649**

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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 the Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Graduation Legacy for
2 Reforestation Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and
5 advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with
6 the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue
7 reforestation programs and encourage tree planting as a means of involving the youth in
8 public and civic affairs.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Tree Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.** - As an act of
11 public service before they join the country's labor force, all graduating students in senior
12 high school and college, except physically handicapped and students with special needs,
13 shall plant two (2) trees each as a prerequisite for graduation.
14

15 **SEC. 4. Tree Planting Sites** - The Department of Environment and Natural
16 Resources (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall determine the
17 appropriate tree planting sites within the LGU territories, in coordination with schools,
18 colleges and universities.
19

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

SEC. 6. Partner Agencies and Stakeholders and their responsibilities. - 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) DENR;
- (b) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (c) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (d) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and
- (e) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (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. Provision of Seedlings. - The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR and the 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 - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, and CHED shall, in coordination with DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, promulgate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The LGU concerned may set aside funds from any local revenue an amount deemed appropriate for the implementation of this 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,