

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1824**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Deforestation has been identified as one of the causes of flash floods associated with climate change and global warming, which has become a global concern, as more countries are beginning to experience climate changes and its negative effect. In the past years, typhoon Ondoy, Pedring, and Sendong had resulted to wide-spread flash floods due to our denuded forest and water reservoirs- the flash floods claimed thousands of lives, left numerous families devastated, and send small and medium-scale business in the affected areas reeling to ground.

On the other hand, Metro Manila and several provinces in Luzon recently experienced water shortage for domestic use and irrigation of agriculture lands as the water level in the major dams like Angat, Ipo and San Roque wend down below critical level. As an immediate response, government has to ration and reduce the volume allocated for users and consumers of water. Multiple factors interplayed and contributed to this problem and one of them is the worsening condition of the forest cover in the watershed areas of these dams negatively impacting the water retentions capacity of the forest.

We experienced a paradox where we experience water shortage during dry season and flash floods during wet season. This is primary due to denudation of our forest cover.

As an appropriate solution to this problem, reforestation has become a major and priority concern of the state through the National Greening Program (NGP) which was previously launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nevertheless, reforestation should also be the concern of every citizen and residents alike.

As an effort of every citizen to help in the reforestation crusade of the state, this measure requires the planting of two (2) trees for every child born of a couple, one of tree for the father and another tree for the mother.

The number of trees to be planted as a result of this bill will be very significant and it will effectively supplement the 1.5 billion trees to be planted by the DENR through its NGP, taking into account the thousands of babies that are born and Human Development Report statistics almost 2 million babies are born in the Philippines every year. 166,667 every month and 5,556 everyday; thereby assuring no less than 4 million trees yearly.

Furthermore, it will serve to develop the people's awareness of the need for reforestation and encourage tree planting as part of the family's concern and responsibility, hereby reviving the Filipino tradition- whereby parents, as a sign of love and care for their children, plant tree for them; and in turn, their children will make care of these trees as a sign of love, respect and as living memories for their parents.

To ensure compliance with this compulsory measure, the couple is required to execute a Joint Affidavit of Compliance sworn to before the Punong Barangay of the place where they reside, or the appropriate legal officer of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the area where they reside. Thereafter, this joint-affidavit shall be submitted to the Civil Registrar's Office of the Municipality or City where the birth of the child should be registered as a requirements for the release of the child's Certificate of Live Birth.

This proposal has been deliberated and was unanimously approved on 3rd Reading during the 18th Congress and I hope that this bill will get the support of my colleagues in this 19th Congress.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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**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. If not possible, trees shall be planted 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 DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with local government units (LGUS) throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that shall provide seedlings to parents planting the trees in accordance with 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, shall release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child only upon the presentation of the parents sworn statement of compliance: Provided however, That the presentation of a certificate of compliance from the DENR or the LGU concerned shall constitute compliance with the requirement for the release of the certificate of Live Birth of the child. Planting of the trees must be done within thirty (30) days after the child's birth. Longer compliance period maybe provided for parents under extraordinary circumstances such as solo parent or physically incapacitated to perform such activity.

SEC. 6. ***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. 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), DA, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 8. ***Separability Clause.***- Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof shall continue to be enforced.

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.