

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill Number **3585**



Introduced by **REP. JANE T. CASTRO**

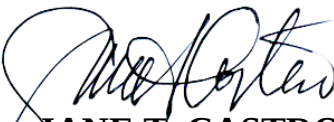
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill requires parents to plant two (2) trees for every child born to them, and this bill has been approved with the House of Representatives in the 18th and 19th Congress.

The issue of climate change affects everyone of us in the whole world. To combat its disastrous effects, everyone would need to take action; and any plan of action should take into account the family as a basic unit of society. Parents planting trees for the benefit of their sons and daughters is a powerful symbol of the present taking care of the future. But more than its symbolism, the sheer number of families we have in the Philippines would mean that we can potentially plant millions of trees.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Philippines has a total household of 26,393,906 in 2020. If we could plant as many trees as we have our number of households, we would surely recover some of our forest cover.

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


JANE T. CASTRO
Representative
2nd District of Capiz

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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:*

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

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to
4 protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful
5 ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the
6 State shall promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree planting
7 as part of the family’s responsibility and legacy to protect the environment and
8 conserve our natural resources for the future generation.

9 SEC. 3. **Mandatory Tree Planting.** – All parents residing in the Philippines
10 whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant two (2) trees for every
11 child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their own
12 home. If not possible, trees shall be planted in an area to be designated by the
13 Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of
14 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The planted species should be
15 appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for
16 the planting of indigenous species and fruit-bearing trees.

1 SEC. 4. ***Provision of Seedlings.*** – The Community Environment and
2 Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR and the Department of
3 Agriculture (DA), in partnership with local government units (LGUs) throughout
4 the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that shall provide seedlings to
5 parents planting the trees in accordance with this Act.

6 SEC. 5. ***Tree Planting as a Requirement for Birth Certificate Release.*** –
7 To ensure compliance with this Act, the Local Civil Registry where the birth of the
8 child shall be registered, shall release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child only
9 upon the presentation of the parents' sworn statement of compliance: *Provided,*
10 *however,* That a certificate of compliance from the DENR or the LGU concerned
11 shall suffice the requirement for the release of the Certificate of Live Birth of the
12 child. Planting of the trees must be done within thirty (30) days after the child's
13 birth. Longer compliance period maybe provided for parents under extraordinary
14 circumstances such as solo parent or physically incapacitated to perform such
15 activity.

16 SEC. 6. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
17 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
18 appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding
19 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
12 implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any
13 provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended
14 accordingly.

15 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,