



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5421



Introduced by Representative Jernie Jett V. Nisay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed amendment to Republic Act No. 10176, otherwise known as the Arbor Day Act of 2012, seeks to institutionalize a more effective nationwide tree planting program to rehabilitate degraded forest lands, improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and promote ecological balance. Recognizing the vital role of trees in environmental stability, this Act mandates the annual observance of Arbor Day in all provinces, cities, and municipalities, with flexibility for local scheduling to align with optimal planting seasons and local budgetary allocations.

To ensure proper planning and implementation, the bill establishes an Arbor Day Celebration Committee in every local government unit (LGU), composed of representatives from relevant government agencies, civic organizations, media associations, and indigenous peoples' communities through the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These committees will identify suitable areas for tree planting and reforestation, including public school grounds, idle public lands, urban and rural parks, private lands with consent, and ancestral domains, while prioritizing endemic or indigenous species where appropriate.¹

By amending RA 10176, this bill enhances the State's capacity to address environmental degradation, foster community involvement in ecological stewardship, and ensure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees. These measures

¹ Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (2023). *Reforestation and tree planting guidelines in the Philippines*. DENR. <https://www.denr.gov.ph>

² Food and Agriculture Organization. (2022). *Forests and climate change: Policy guidance for sustainable reforestation*. FAO. <https://www.fao.org>

1 contribute to achieving a balanced and healthful ecology while supporting climate
2 resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management.²

3 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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REP. JERNIE JETT V. NISAY
Pusong Pinoy Partylist



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AN ACT
PROVIDING MECHANISMS THAT SHALL ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONWIDE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10176, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “ARBOR DAY ACT OF 2012”

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10176 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the vital role and importance of trees in ecological stability is recognized. Hence, there is a need for a collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by **REHABILITATING DEGRADED FOREST LAND AREAS, IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND LAND PRODUCTIVITY, AND REDUCING SOIL EROSION ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AND UPLAND AREAS**, undertaking nationwide tree planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability.

“It is hereby mandated that all provinces, cities and municipalities with their component barangays shall be required to revive, by appropriate

1 proclamation of their respective local chief executives, an Arbor Day at an
2 appropriate fixed date every calendar year as shall be deemed suitable
3 according to the proper time and season for planting trees in the respective
4 provinces and their respective component municipalities or cities concerned.
5 Although adoption of uniform dates for every province and its component
6 municipalities and cities shall be encouraged, varying dates for Arbor Day
7 celebrations may be permitted in order to afford flexibility in planning and in
8 implementing tree planting programs to adjust to the proper time and period of
9 the year most suited to the trees selected to be planted, and as local budgetary
10 allotments shall allow.”

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12 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

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14 **“SEC. 3. Creation of Arbor Day Committee.** – In implementing the
15 intents of this Act, there shall be created in every province, city and municipality
16 in the country an Arbor Day Celebration Committee, the composition of which
17 shall be selected by the concerned local chief executive. The members shall
18 preferably **BE** composed of field officers of various government agencies, based
19 in the locality, but not limited to the following:

- 20 (a) Local Sanggunian;
21 (b) Local Environment and Natural Resources Office;
22 (c) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
23 (d) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);
24 (e) Department of Education (DepED);
25 (f) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
26 (g) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
27 (h) Department of Agriculture (DA);
28 (i) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
29 (j) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
30 (k) Department of Tourism (DOT);
31 (l) Philippine National Police (PNP);
32 (m) Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);
33 (n) Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA);
34 (o) Civic organizations;

- 1 (p) Sangguniang Kabataan (SK);
2 (q) Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB); [and]
3 (r) Media associations; **AND**
4 **(s) NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP)."**
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6 **SEC. 3.** Section 9 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:
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8 **"SEC. 9. *Areas Covered by Tree Planting.* – THE LGU, WITH**
9 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DENR, SHALL IDENTIFY SUITABLE**
10 **AREAS TO BE PLANTED TO VARIOUS SPECIES OF TREES AND PLANTS,**
11 **INCLUDING BAMBOO. THE DENR SHALL ENSURE THAT NATIONAL**
12 **GREENING PROGRAM SITES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES**
13 **ARE PROPAGATED AND PLANTED OF VARIOUS SPECIES TO ENHANCE**
14 **EXISTING VEGETATION.**
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16 "The local Arbor Day Celebrations Committee shall [specify] **SELECT** the
17 area within the **JURISDICTION OF THE LGU** to be planted or reforested **FROM**
18 **AMONG THE AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE LGU AS SUITABLE FOR THESE**
19 **PURPOSES.**
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21 "If the area to be planted or reforested is a protected area or a protection
22 forest, the Committee shall encourage the use of endemic or indigenous species
23 during the observance of the Arbor Day designated by the LGU.

24 "The tree planting activities shall be done in any of the following areas:

25 "(a) Public school grounds, gardens or other available areas 18 within
26 the school premises;

27 "(b) Idle or vacant public lands;

28 "(c) Public parks in urban and rural areas; [and]

29 "(d) Private schools, parks and lands with the consent of the 2 owner
30 thereof;["]**AND**

31 **"(E) ANCESTRAL DOMAIN."**
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33 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 11-A is inserted after Section 11 of the same Act to 5
34 read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 11-A. ANNUAL REPORTS. – THE DILG SHALL MONITOR THE**
2 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AND SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO**
3 **THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CREATED UNDER**
4 **SECTION 11-B HEREIN ON THE COMPLIANCE OF LGUs WITH THE**
5 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.**

6 **“THE DENR SHALL ALSO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE**
7 **CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE AREAS IDENTIFIED**
8 **IN EACH LGU THAT ARE SUITABLE TO TREE PLANTING AND**
9 **REFORESTATION.”**

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11 **SEC. 5.** A new Section 11-B is inserted after Section 11-A of the same Act 18 to
12 read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 11-B. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. – A**
14 **CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED TO**
15 **MONITOR AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. IT SHALL**
16 **BE CO-CHAIRLED BY THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON**
17 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE**
18 **SENATE, AND SHALL HAVE AS MEMBERS THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE**
19 **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION AND COMMITTEE ON**
20 **NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND**
21 **THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON**
22 **ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE**
23 **SENATE.**

24 **“THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SHALL**
25 **PRESCRIBE AND ADOPT GUIDELINES WHICH SHALL GOVERN ITS**
26 **WORK. IT SHALL EXERCISE ALL THE POWERS NECESSARY AND**
27 **INCIDENTAL TO ATTAIN THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS CREATED. IT**
28 **SHALL REVIEW THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DILG AND DENR ON THE**
29 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”**

30
31 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 10176 is hereby amended and
32 all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, department orders, memorandum
33 circulars, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are
34 hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

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SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,