

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6865



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines stands on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Every year, stronger storms, deeper floods, harsher droughts, and rising seas threaten our homes and our food and water supply. Forest loss has stripped our communities of the natural protection our grandparents once relied on. The result is a cycle of danger, loss, and rebuilding that weakens families and the nation.

For decades, our laws have recognized that planting trees is not a hobby. It is a duty. Presidential Decrees 953 and 1153, and later the Arbor Day Act, made tree planting a shared obligation of landowners, citizens, and communities. These laws reflect a simple truth. Our survival depends on our willingness to care for the land that sustains us.

Yet despite these efforts, our forests continue to shrink. Many areas remain bare, unprotected, and vulnerable. What we lack is not conviction but a simple and meaningful way to involve every Filipino family now when the future matters most. That moment is the birth of a child.

This bill requires parents to plant two trees for every child born to them. It links this duty to birth registration and local health systems so that compliance is easy, supported, and properly recorded. It brings together local governments, national agencies, health facilities, and families to ensure that seedlings are available, planting sites are identified, and young trees are cared for. It relies on guidance and incentives, not punishment, and allows reasonable alternatives for parents who cannot plant on their own.

With more than a million births each year, this simple act can grow millions of trees in a single generation. These trees will protect watersheds, reduce flooding, cool our communities, and give our children cleaner air and safer futures. They will also strengthen the culture of stewardship that our laws have always envisioned, where every Filipino has a hand in healing the environment that nurtures us all.

The birth of a child is a promise of hope. Planting trees for that child turns that hope into action. It gives every family a way to fight climate change and to safeguard the land that their children will inherit.

In the Nineteenth Congress, the House of Representatives approved a similar measure on Third Reading as House Bill No. 9587 on December 12, 2023.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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*.”

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 a certificate of compliance from the DENR or the LGU concerned shall suffice 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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, DA, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any portion or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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,