

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8662**



Introduced by: **REP. MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of education in nation-building and the importance of extending financial assistance to deserving students through scholarship programs. At the same time, the State acknowledges the urgent need to address environmental degradation, climate change, and the loss of green spaces in both urban and rural communities.

This proposed measure seeks to harmonize these two priorities by mandating scholarship beneficiaries to plant at least one tree or suitable plant in their backyard, school grounds, or designated community area as part of their responsibility in exchange for the monetary assistance they receive. By doing so, scholars not only benefit from educational support but also actively contribute to environmental preservation and community development.

To ensure accessibility and fairness, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall provide seedlings or tree plants appropriate to local conditions. This provision removes the burden from scholars of sourcing planting materials and guarantees that the species planted are ecologically suitable and sustainable. The DENR, in coordination with local government units and educational institutions, shall also provide technical guidance on planting and maintenance.

This initiative instills discipline, responsibility, and environmental awareness among the youth, who are the future stewards of our nation. It also strengthens the partnership between government, academe, and communities in promoting sustainable practices. Beyond its symbolic value, the program will contribute to reforestation, urban greening, and food security through backyard gardening.

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

MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO
Representative, 3rd District of Bulacan

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**AN ACT MANDATING SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARIES TO PLANT A TREE OR
ANY PLANT IN THEIR BACKYARD OR COMMUNITY AS A FORM OF
CONTRIBUTION IN EXCHANGE FOR THE MONETARY ASSISTANCE THEY
RECEIVE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 **“Scholarship Green Exchange Act of 2026.”**

Section 2. Declaration of Policy –

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote environmental sustainability and instill social responsibility among scholarship beneficiaries. In recognition of the financial support extended to them, scholars shall contribute to ecological preservation through tree planting or backyard gardening.

Section 3. Coverage –

This Act shall apply to all scholarship programs funded by:

1. National government agencies,
2. Local government units, and
3. State universities and colleges (SUCs).
4. Private scholarship providers are encouraged to adopt similar provisions.

Section 4. Requirement –

Every scholarship beneficiary shall:

1. Plant at least one tree or any suitable plant in their backyard, school grounds, or designated community area, once every academic year.
2. Ensure proper care and maintenance of the plant for at least three (3) years after planting.

Section 5. Monitoring and Compliance -

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with SUCs and LGUs, shall provide technical guidance on suitable species for planting.

Scholarship administrators shall require beneficiaries to submit proof of compliance (e.g., photo documentation, certification from barangay or school officials).

Non-compliance may result in the suspension of scholarship benefits until requirements are fulfilled.

Section 6. Incentives -

Scholars who exceed the minimum requirement (e.g., planting more than one tree or maintaining a small garden) may be recognized with certificates of environmental stewardship and additional academic incentives, subject to the discretion of the scholarship provider.

Section 7. Appropriations -

Funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from existing budgets of scholarship programs and environmental initiatives of the DENR and LGUs.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations -

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, CHED, and DepEd shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out its provisions.

Section 9. Separability Clause. –

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause. –

All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity –

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,