

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 690**

Submitted by the Special Committee on Reforestation on **July 3, 2023**

Re : **HOUSE BILL NO. 8568**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2500

Sponsors: Representatives Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang and Dante S. Garcia

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Mr. Speaker:

The Special Committee on Reforestation to which was referred House Bill No. 2500, introduced by Rep. Dante S. Garcia, entitled:


**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING MECHANISMS THAT SHALL ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10176, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ARBOR DAY ACT OF 2012”**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **8568**, entitled:

**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 approved in substitution of House Bill No. 2500 with Reps. Dante S. Garcia, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

  
**ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG**  
Chairperson  
Special Committee on Reforestation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8568**  
(In substitution to HB No. 2500)

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**Introduced by Representatives Dante S. Garcia, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano**

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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

1 harmony of nature. Towards this end, the vital role and importance of  
2 trees in ecological stability is recognized. Hence, there is a need for a  
3 collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to combat the  
4 loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by  
5 **REHABILITATING DEGRADED FOREST LAND AREAS,**  
6 **IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND LAND PRODUCTIVITY,**  
7 **AND REDUCING SOIL EROSION ESPECIALLY IN THE**  
8 **RURAL AND UPLAND AREAS,** undertaking nationwide tree  
9 planting activities and providing effective measures for their  
10 maintenance and sustainability.

11 “It is hereby mandated that all provinces, cities and  
12 municipalities with their component barangays shall be required to  
13 revive, by appropriate proclamation of their respective local chief  
14 executives, an Arbor Day at an appropriate fixed date every calendar  
15 year as shall be deemed suitable according to the proper time and  
16 season for planting trees in the respective provinces and their  
17 respective component municipalities or cities concerned. Although  
18 adoption of uniform dates for every province and its component  
19 municipalities and cities shall be encouraged, varying dates for Arbor  
20 Day celebrations may be permitted in order to afford flexibility in  
21 planning and in implementing tree planting programs to adjust to the

1 proper time and period of the year most suited to the trees selected to  
2 be planted, and as local budgetary allotments shall allow.”

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

4 “**SEC. 3. *Creation of Arbor Day Committee.*** - In implementing the  
5 intents of this Act, there shall be created in every province, city and  
6 municipality in the country an Arbor Day Celebration Committee, the  
7 composition of which shall be selected by the concerned local chief  
8 executive. The members shall preferably **BE** composed of field officers of  
9 various government agencies, based in the locality, but not limited to the  
10 following:

11 (a) Local Sanggunian;

12 (b) Local Environment and Natural Resources Office;

13 (c) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

14 (d) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);

15 (e) Department of Education (DepED);

16 (f) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

17 (g) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

- 1 (h) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 2 (i) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- 3 (j) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- 4 (k) Department of Tourism (DOT);
- 5 (l) Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 6 (m) Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);
- 7 (n) Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA);
- 8 (o) Civic organizations;
- 9 (p) Sangguniang Kabataan (SK);
- 10 (q) Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB); [and]
- 11 (r) Media associations; **AND**
- 12 **(S) NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP).**

13 **SEC. 3.** Section 9 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 9. *Areas Covered by Tree Planting.* – THE LGU,**  
15 **WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DENR,**  
16 **SHALL IDENTIFY SUITABLE AREAS TO BE PLANTED TO**

1           **VARIOUS SPECIES OF TREES AND PLANTS, INCLUDING**  
2           **BAMBOO. THE DENR SHALL ENSURE THAT NATIONAL**  
3           **GREENING PROGRAM SITES WITHIN THE**  
4           **MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES ARE PROPAGATED AND**  
5           **PLANTED OF VARIOUS SPECIES TO ENHANCE EXISTING**  
6           **VEGETATION.**

7           “The local Arbor Day Celebrations Committee shall [specify]  
8           **SELECT** the area within the **JURISDICTION OF THE LGU** to be  
9           planted or reforested **FROM AMONG THE AREAS IDENTIFIED**  
10          **BY THE LGU AS SUITABLE FOR THESE PURPOSES.**

11          “If the area to be planted or reforested is a protected area or a  
12          protection forest, the Committee shall encourage the use of endemic  
13          or indigenous species during the observance of the Arbor Day  
14          designated by the LGU.

15          “The tree planting activities shall be done in any of the  
16          following areas:

17          “(a) Public school grounds, gardens or other available areas  
18          within the school premises;

19          “(b) Idle or vacant public lands;

20          “(c) Public parks in urban and rural areas; [and]

1 “(d) Private schools, parks and lands with the consent of the  
2 owner thereof;[” ]AND

3 **“(E) ANCESTRAL DOMAIN”**

4 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 11-A is inserted after Section 11 of the same Act to  
5 read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 11-A. ANNUAL REPORTS. – THE DILG SHALL**  
7 **MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AND**  
8 **SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL**  
9 **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CREATED UNDER SECTION 11-**  
10 **B HEREIN ON THE COMPLIANCE OF LGUs WITH THE**  
11 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.**

12 **“THE DENR SHALL ALSO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL**  
13 **REPORT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT**  
14 **COMMITTEE ON THE AREAS IDENTIFIED IN EACH LGU**  
15 **THAT ARE SUITABLE TO TREE PLANTING AND**  
16 **REFORESTATION.”**

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

19 **“SEC. 11-B. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT**  
20 **COMMITTEE. – A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT**  
21 **COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED TO MONITOR AND**

1           **OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. IT**  
2           **SHALL BE CO-CHAIRERD BY THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE**  
3           **COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE**  
4           **OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, AND SHALL**  
5           **HAVE AS MEMBERS THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE**  
6           **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION AND**  
7           **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE**  
8           **OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE CHAIRPERSON AND**  
9           **VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON**  
10          **ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE**  
11          **CHANGE OF THE SENATE.**

12           **THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
13          **SHALL PRESCRIBE AND ADOPT GUIDELINES WHICH**  
14          **SHALL GOVERN ITS WORK. IT SHALL EXERCISE ALL**  
15          **THE POWERS NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL TO ATTAIN**  
16          **THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS CREATED. IT SHALL**  
17          **REVIEW THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DILG AND**  
18          **DENR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”**

19          **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause*** - Republic Act No. 10176 is hereby  
20          amended and all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
21          department orders, memorandum circulars, rules and regulations, or parts

1    thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, modified,  
2    or repealed accordingly.

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

5           *Approved,*

House of Representatives  
Committee Affairs Department

**FACT SHEET**

House Bill No. **8568**  
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 2500)

**AN ACT**

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

Introduced by Representatives Dante S. Garcia, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

*Committee Referral:* **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION**  
*Committee Chairperson:* **ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To strengthen the response of the local government unit’s (LGUs) in implementing RA 10176, known as the Arbor Day Act of 2012
- To strengthen the oversight powers of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other government agencies in the implementation of the law.

**KEY PROVISIONS:**

- Includes ancestral domain among the areas covered by tree planting program under this Act.
- Mandates the LGUs to identify suitable areas to be planted to various species of trees and plants, including bamboo;
- Creates a Congressional Oversight Committee and defines the duties of the members from the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively.
- Defines the duties of the DILG and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources relative to the monitoring of the implementation of this Act and the submission of annual reports to Congress;

**RELATED LAWS:**

- Republic Act No. 10176 – otherwise known as the Arbor Day Act of 2012