

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
*Second Regular Session*      }

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**H. No. 9588**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES GO (M.), PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PADUANO, GARCIA (D.), RODRIGUEZ (R.), VIOLAGO, RIVERA, TUTOR, BULUT-BEGTANG, CO (E.), UMALI, GATO, VALMAYOR, YU (D.G.), YU (J.V.), QUIMBO, PUMAREN, PALMA, ALBANO, NAVA, BAUTISTA-LIM, ZAMORA (M.C.), ABANTE, ESPINA, BAUTISTA, SINGSON (R.V.), CAMPOS, CALDERON, DEL MAR, VARGAS-ALFONSO, LARA, GONZAGA, CAJAYON-UY, CARI, CABREDO, AQUINO, CUA, ALONTE, DY (F.), MATUGAS, BONGALON, ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, LOYOLA, HARESCO, CELESTE, ALVAREZ (M.), FUENTEBELLA, ZUBIRI, YAP (ERIC), VERGARA, GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, BASCUG, TAN (J.), SALI, CRUZ (R.), CRUZ (A.), EUDELA, PLEYTO, MATIBAG, VERZOSA, CHATTO, FORTES, MACEDA, FRESNEDI, LAZATIN, REVILLA (R.J.), ALMARIO, ASISTIO, TALLADO, CO-PILAR, YAP (C.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), MASTURA, HERNANDEZ, RODRIGUEZ (E.), DAGOOC, GUTIERREZ, ABALOS, LEE, BOSITA, ACHARON, ALVAREZ (P.), AMATONG, BIRON, CAGAS, FERRER (J.M.), GORRICETA, HAGEDORN, MALAPITAN, SALO, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), CASTRO (J.) AND DALIPE

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### **AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, 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 “Graduation

2 Legacy for Reforestation 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 a means of involving the youth in public and civic affairs.

8 SEC. 3. ***Tree Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.*** – As an

9 act of public service before they join the country’s labor force, all graduating

10 students in senior high school and college, except physically handicapped and

11 students with special needs, shall plant two (2) trees each as a prerequisite for

12 graduation.

13 SEC. 4. ***Tree Planting Sites.*** – The Department of Environment and Natural

14 Resources (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall

15 determine the appropriate tree planting sites within the LGU territories, in

16 coordination with schools, colleges and universities.

17 SEC. 5. ***Preference for Indigenous Species.*** – The species of trees to be

18 planted should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area,

19 with preference for the planting of indigenous species.

20 SEC. 6. ***Partner Agencies and Stakeholders and Their Responsibilities.*** –

21 The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education

1 (CHED) shall implement the provisions of this Act, in partnership with the  
2 following agencies:

3 (a) DENR;  
4 (b) Department of Agriculture (DA);  
5 (c) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);  
6 (e) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and  
7 (f) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

8 The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

9 (1) Establishment of nursery and seedling preparation;  
10 (2) Site identification and preparation;  
11 (3) Technical support and extension services; and  
12 (4) Monitoring and evaluation.

13 SEC. 7. ***Provision of Seedlings.*** – The Community Environment and  
14 Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR and the DA, in partnership with  
15 LGUs throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a  
16 ready source of seedlings to be used in the implementation of this Act.

17 SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days  
18 after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and CHED shall, in coordination with  
19 the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, promulgate and issue  
20 the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

21 SEC. 9. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial  
22 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's

1 appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding  
2 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

5 SEC. 10. ***Separability Clause.*** – Should any portion or provision of this Act  
6 be declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall  
7 remain in full force and effect.

8 SEC. 11. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive  
9 orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the  
10 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11 SEC. 12. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,