

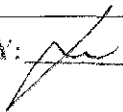
SENATE  
S. No. 2752

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides:

The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Global warming is now almost unanimously accepted as a serious problem that is attributable to humans – primarily through the use of fossil fuels – and that demands concrete remedial action as soon as possible. History has shown that in the past, events like the temporary boycott by some of the major petroleum producers in the 1970s highlighted that countries have a national security problem related to both price and availability of one of our main energy sources. The problems of protecting the environment and conserving energy are both inescapable and of a pressing nature.

Over the decades, there has not been a dearth of ideas on how to advance our “right to a balanced and healthful ecology.” Earth Day, for example, was first celebrated on 22 April 1970 in the United States. It is now observed in more than 175 countries annually. It is meant to inspire awareness and appreciation of our environment. Experience has shown, however, that one day in a year is not enough to sustain a culture of environmentalism. The monthly reminder and push that this bill provides will guarantee a sustained response to the challenges posed by scarce resources and global warming.

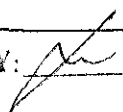
This bill will require the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Education, along with other stakeholders, to provide information, coordination, and support services to public and private entities in ensuring a systematic and lasting effort of protecting the environment.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RECEIVED BY: 

1 AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY  
2 OF EVERY MONTH AS EARTH CONSCIOUSNESS DAY

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Monthly Observance of Earth  
6 Consciousness Day Act of 2011.”

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to afford full protection  
8 and the advancement of the right of the people to a healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm  
9 and harmony of nature. In this light, the State has adopted the Philippine Agenda 21 framework  
10 which espouses sustainable development to fulfill human needs while maintaining the quality of  
11 the natural environment for current and future generations.

12 As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the State  
13 adopts the ultimate objective of the Convention which is the stabilization of greenhouse gas  
14 concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic  
15 interference with the climate system which should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to  
16 allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not  
17 threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

18 SECTION 3. *Special Working Holiday.* – In recognition of the need to establish a  
19 comprehensive and lasting national consciousness of protecting the environment, the first day of  
20 every month is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as “Earth  
21 Consciousness Day”.

22 SECTION 4. *Activities that shall be Undertaken in Observance of this Occasion.* –

(a) Heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and  
controlled corporations, local government units, and employers in the private sector shall,

1 together with their employees, organize, engage, or participate in activities designed to raise  
2 public awareness on protecting the environment.

3 (b) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the  
4 Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with nongovernmental organizations  
5 (NGOs), shall lead public and private school communities in organizing consciousness-raising  
6 activities on the need to protect the environment. Each primary and secondary school shall plant  
7 at least one (1) seedling every first day of the month in observance of Earth Consciousness Day.  
8 They shall also emphasize the need to conserve energy and shall disseminate ways to lower  
9 everyone's energy consumption.

10 SECTION 5. *Rules.* – The Secretary of Environment and the Secretary of Education  
11 shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, jointly promulgate rules and  
12 regulations to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

13 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of  
14 this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DENR and the DepEd. Thereafter,  
15 such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the annual General  
16 Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

17 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
19 valid and subsisting.

20 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
21 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
22 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

23 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,