

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P3:42

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S E N A T E

S. No. 286

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1976, forested land was 2.37 million hectares. By 2001, this figure was down to 1.75 million hectares, a decrease of 35%. Such statistics are indicative of the continued degradation and depletion of our country's forest products, of which trees are an important component.

This bill seeks to partially address the problem of our dwindling national resources by obligating local governments to plant trees along national and local highways.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PLANT TREES ALONG NATIONAL
AND LOCAL HIGHWAYS WITHIN ITS TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Greening of**
2 **Philippine Highways Act of 2004**”.

3 Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to
4 advance and promote the conservation of the environment, through the planting
5 of trees along national and local roads and highways, to minimize and contain
6 the adverse effects of pollution and flood.

7 Section 3. Responsibility of Local Government. – It shall be the primary
8 responsibility of local governments, with the cooperation of the Department of
9 Local Governments, Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
10 Department of Public Works and Highways, and other concerned government
11 agencies, to plant and maintain trees along national and local highways within
12 their respective territorial boundaries.

13 Section 4. Fund. – The expenses necessary for the implementation of this
14 Act shall be charged to the appropriation for the Department concerned under
15 the current appropriations Act. Expenses for the succeeding years of
16 implementation shall be included in the Annual Appropriations Act.

1 Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of
2 Local Government shall prescribe the implementing rules and regulations within
3 thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act.

4 Section 6. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, inconsistent
5 with this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

6 Section 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

8 Approved.