

9 MAR 31 2011

SENATE
S.B. 3144

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Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

Green collar jobs involve products and services that are environment-friendly. An employment company or organization that seeks to improve upon the environment is considered noteworthy and may be considered "green". Green collar jobs include any that involve the design, manufacture, installation, operation, and/or maintenance of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Green collar employments satisfy the demand for green development. Generally, they implement environmentally conscious design, policy, and technology to improve conservation and sustainability.

In Wikipedia, the following professional and personnel are considered to be "green collar workers": professionals and their staff working in a conservation movement or non-governmental organizations on ecological protection, environmental consultants, environmental or biological systems engineers, green building architects, holistic passive solar building designers, solar energy and wind energy engineers and installers, nuclear engineers, "green business" owners, green vehicle, organic farmers, environmental lawyers, ecology educators, and ecotechnology workers, and sales staff working with these services or products. Green collar workers also include vocational or trade-level workers: electricians who install solar panels, plumbers who install solar water heaters, construction workers who build energy-efficient green buildings and wind power farms, construction workers who weatherize buildings to make them more energy efficient or other workers involved in clean, renewable, sustainable future energy development.

In the United States of America today, the green collar sector is booming and it is currently the fifth largest market sector. In the Philippines, very recently, President Gloria Arroyo said that a P 2 billion reforestation fund will be put up to provide employment in the re-greening of logged-over uplands in the mountains of Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Lanao del Sur and the regeneration of mangrove areas. It will also fund projects on coastal clean-ups and bay watch projects, tree planting and bio-fuels implementation that will require massive green employment opportunities.

This bill seeks to complement the present effort of the national government. Likewise, in the context of the current economic crisis facing the country, a massive push to promote ecological protection and develop renewable sources of energy could create thousands of new jobs and help the economy recover while simultaneously improving the environment and strengthening energy security.

The promotion of green employment is a mechanism to ensure the sustainability of the right to a healthy and balanced ecology. It is also aimed at a transgenerational guarantee of enjoying the benefits of environmental rights.

The immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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**AN ACT
PROMOTING THE CREATION OF GREEN COLLAR JOBS, PROVIDING A
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be cited and known as the "Promoting Green Collar Jobs in the Philippines Act of 2009."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. In accordance with the constitutional policy that, "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", it is hereby declared that it is every citizen's responsibility to one another and to the future generations to see that the Philippine environment is preserved and protected and that the government has the supreme intergenerational responsibility and mandate to ensure the sustainable development of the country's environment and Mother Earth.

SEC. 3. Creation of Green Collar Jobs Council. A Green Collar Jobs Council, hereinafter called as the Council, is hereby created as a special organization under the Department of Labor and Employment. The Council shall be tasked as the premier government body to implement the provisions of this Act.

The Council shall be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment and will have the Secretaries of the Department of Trade and Industry, Environment and Natural Resources and Energy and the Director-General of the National Economic Development Authority as members. Four (4) representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organizations representing management and industry, environmental and conservation advocacy, academic community and local government shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

The Council shall have an Executive Director who will head a lean corps of competent personnel which will serve as the administrative and technical secretariat.

SEC. 4. Strategic Initiative for the Creation of Green Collar Jobs. The Council shall formulate a Strategic Initiative which will serve as framework for the promotion and creation of green collar employment.

The Strategic Initiative shall contain:

a. strategies and approaches to adopt new ways of looking at industry sectors and the development of potential new technologies combined with innovative public policy and strategic investments to stimulate the growth of new markets for green products and services;

b. action plans identifying the framework, strategies, programs and policies, partnerships and opportunities necessary to address the growing need for a highly skilled and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of the emerging green economy.

c. a data base that identifies and links green collar job opportunities with entities, agencies and corporations requiring green collar employments. It shall include training programs to assist and prepare specific sectors such as displaced and retrenched workers, at-risk youth and out-of-school youth, students, veterans, persons with disabilities and others facing barriers to employment.

d. dossiers and information emerging green industries workforce needs, trends, and job growth and funding recommendations on how to expand and leverage these funds.

e. such other data that may be significant in the promotion and propagation of green collar jobs.

SEC. 5. Immediate Needs for Green Collar Jobs in the Country. Initially, the Department of Labor and Employment must publish in its website and must avail of all free media advertisements announcing immediate green collar job opportunities, in such areas as:

- a. coastal clean-up and bay watch projects;
- b. reforestation efforts and tree planting;
- c. construction and designation of bike lanes and installation of solar-powered street lights and other clean energy initiatives;
- d. garbage collection;
- e. planting and replanting of coconut trees to ensure bio-fuel feed stock;
- f. opportunities in refitting public utility vehicles with liquefied petroleum gas;
- g. re-electrification of barangays using solar panels and hydro-electric grids

SEC. 6. Coordination with Local Government Units. Local government units must assist in the implementation of this Act through the promotion of green collar jobs creation.

SEC. 7. Incentives. An incentive scheme is hereby provided for the purpose of encouraging LGUs, enterprises, or private entities, including NGOs, to develop or undertake an effective program to generate green collar jobs or actively participate in any program geared towards the promotion thereof as provided for in this Act.

The Council shall provide a system of incentives to businesses and industries that are in the promotion and generation of green collar jobs.

Government financial institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and such other government institutions providing financial services shall, in accordance with and to the extent allowed by the enabling provisions of their respective charters or applicable laws, accord high priority to extend financial services to individuals, enterprises, or private entities that creates green collar jobs.

SEC. 8. *Public Education and Information.* - The Council shall, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and mass media organizations, conduct a continuing education and information campaign on the development and generation of green collar jobs including:

- (a) Aim to develop public awareness of the positive effects of green economy;
- (b) Encourage the general public to patronize green products and services and endorse and patronize environmentally acceptable products and packaging materials.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - For the initial operating expenses of the Council, the amount of Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the budget of the DOLE. Thereafter, the Council shall submit to the Department of Budget and Management its proposed budget for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act.

In the next five (5) years following the approval of this Act, the government must appropriate one half of one percent (0.5 %) of the annual appropriation act for various green collar jobs/employments. In addition, the government agencies are encouraged to utilize their savings for short- and medium-term green collar jobs employment.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - The Council, in coordination with the Committees on Environment and Ecology of the Senate and House of Representative, respectively, the representatives of the Leagues of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and Barangay Councils, the MMDA and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, within one (1) year after its enactment. .

SEC. 11. *Transitory Provision.* - Pending the establishment of the Strategic Initiative under Section 4 hereof, existing laws, regulations, programs and projects on generation of green collar jobs shall be enforced: *Provided*, That for specific undertaking, the same may be revised in the interim in accordance with the intentions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Report to Congress.* - The Council shall report to Congress not later than March 30 of every year following the approval of this Act, giving a detailed account of its accomplishments and progress on promotion of green collar jobs during the year and make the necessary recommendations in areas where there is need for legislative action.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is declared unconstitutional, the remainder

of the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,