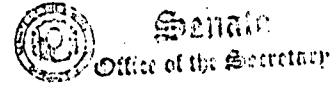


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session

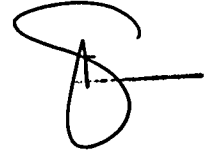


SENATE

21 JAN 12 P1 50

S. B. NO. 1980

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT
MANDATING THE SUBMISSION OF A GREENING PLAN AS A
REQUIREMENT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Experts believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is a result of environmental degradation. More specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic, which is being felt all over the globe, is a consequence of the disturbance of ecosystems by humans, which ended with the transmission of a pathogen to a human population.¹ As of January 7 2021, 87,231,223 persons have already been infected with COVID-19, and some 1,884,312 persons have died from the virus.² Meanwhile, as of January 6, 2021, there are 480,737 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, with 9,347 fatalities.³

Ironically, this same pandemic, which resulted from environmental degradation, is in turn, causing further destruction of nature. Medical waste alone generated by the Philippines has increased from 12,495 metric tons to 19,187 metric tons from April 29, 2020 to July 22, 2020.⁴

The environmental problems generated by the pandemic necessitates our government and citizenry to work together in boosting ecological sustainability. While the pandemic has been a bane in terms of economic activity, it has presented numerous opportunities for our government and our citizens to reconsider how we treat the environment.

This bill, which mandates the submission of a greening plan prior to the issuance of a building permit, is one way of promoting environmental sustainability. Under this bill,

¹ <https://www.crowtherlab.com/covid-19-and-the-environment-causes-and-consequences/>

² <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

³ <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

⁴ <https://earthjournalism.net/stories/in-the-philippines-medical-waste-piles-up-as-covid-19-cases-rise>

a greening plan, must include a short-term, mid-term, and long-term plan on the conservation of the areas subject of the tree-planting or greening program, such as the maintenance of the tree cover, the replenishment of seedlings, protection against calamities, soil erosion, and other environmental factors, monitoring mechanisms, and other details pertinent to the implementation of the greening plan. This measure also lays the blueprint for the promotion of green design and architecture for future projects.

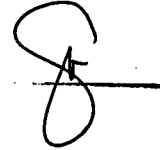
Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

21 JAN 12 P1:50

SENATE
S. B. NO. 1980

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
MANDATING THE SUBMISSION OF A GREENING PLAN AS A
REQUIREMENT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT

*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 “Urban Greening
2 Act.”
3
- 4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the State to promote
5 urban greening by requiring applicants of a building permit to create and
6 execute a greening plan in line with the constitutional directive to protect and
7 advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord
8 with the rhythm and harmony of nature.
9
- 10 **SEC. 3. Requirement of Greening Plan.** – All applicants for building permits
11 of any development project are required to submit a greening plan, in addition
12 to other requirements imposed by local government units. The greening plan
13 shall also be required for the alteration, repair, or conversion of buildings which
14 require a building permit.
15
- 16 **SEC. 4. Contents of Greening Plan.** – The greening plan shall include, but not
17 be limited to, the following:
18
- 19 a. The total land area of the building project;
20
- 21 b. The lay-out of the land area devoted for tree-planting or greening within
22 the land area of the building program or project, which should be at least
23 20 percent of the latter; *Provided*, that floor areas in a multi-storey building
24 project may be counted to fulfill the 20 percent requirement.

- 1 c. The species of the trees or plants to be included in the design, which shall
2 take into account the biodiversity of the area or locality where the building
3 project is situated;
4
- 5 d. The plan shall take into consideration the recommendations and best
6 practices on the use of plant species, and other relevant greening
7 methodologies in the area concerned from the Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the local government unit
9 where the building project is located, experts from the academe, the
10 scientific community, non-government organizations, the members of the
11 community, and other stakeholders concerned; and
12
- 13 e. A short-term, mid-term, and long-term plan on the conservation of the
14 areas subject of the tree-planting or greening program, such as the
15 maintenance of the tree cover, the replenishment of seedlings, protection
16 against calamities, soil erosion, and other environmental factors,
17 monitoring mechanisms, and other details pertinent to the implementation
18 of the greening plan.
19

20 **SEC. 5. Requirement of Indigenous Species.** – The greening plan required
21 under this Act shall include indigenous species of trees, plants, or shrubs,
22 taking into account the recommendations of the DENR and other stakeholders
23 mentioned in Section 4(d) of this Act, as well as the location, climate, and
24 topography of the area.
25

26 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DENR, in coordination
27 with the Department of Interior and Local Government, the unions of local
28 government units, and other relevant stakeholders, shall formulate the
29 implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act
30 within 120 days after the effectivity of this Act.
31

32 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
33 or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified
34 accordingly.
35

36 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
37 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other
38 parts hereof which shall remain in full force and effect.
39

40 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
41 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
42 circulation, whichever comes earlier.
43

44 **Approved,**