

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

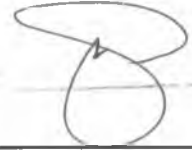
)
)
)

SENATE
Office of the Secretary

24 MAY 21 P5:38

SENATE
S. No. 2691

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

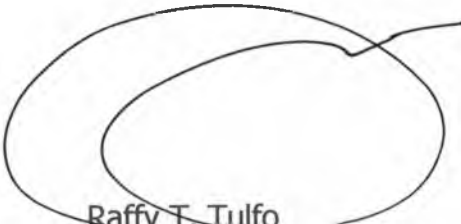
AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines faces significant environmental challenges, including deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Forests are essential in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and regulating the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide. However, the nation's natural landscapes have been negatively harmed by deforestation and forest degradation. By mandating tree planting for graduating students, the bill directly addresses these challenges, contributing to reforestation and ecological restoration efforts.

Educating the youth about the significance of environmental stewardship is vital for fostering a culture of sustainability. By integrating tree-planting activities in the graduation requirements guarantees that students not only learn about environmental challenges in theory but also engage in practical actions. This hands-on experience instills a sense of responsibility and understanding about the importance of safeguarding and preserving natural resources, creating environmentally conscious future leaders.

This bill is a timely and essential step toward addressing the urgent environmental issues that the Philippines is currently facing. By mandating tree planting as a graduation requirement, the bill promotes environmental awareness, civic engagement, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation. This initiative not only benefits the environment but also contributes to the overall development and sustainability of the nation. Integrating environmental action into the educational journey of students ensures that the next generation is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dedication necessary to protect and preserve our environment for future generations.



Raffy T. Tulfo
Senator

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 MAY 21 P5:38

SENATE
S. No. 2691

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

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:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Graduating Students for Reforestation Act of 2024".

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree plantings as a means of involving the youth in public and civic affairs.

Sec. 3. *Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation* - All graduating students from senior high school, and college shall be required to plant at least two (2) trees as a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. The tree planting activity shall be their first act of public service as they enter the country's labor force.

Sec. 4. *Location.* - The trees to be planted under this Act shall be located in suitable lands and areas as determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

1 (DENR) and local government units, in coordination with schools, colleges and
2 universities.

3 *Sec. 5. Preference for Indigenous Species.* - The species of trees to be planted
4 should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area with preference
5 for the planting of indigenous species.

6 *Sec. 6. Partner Agencies and Stakeholders.* - The Department of Education
7 (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement the provisions
8 of this Act, in partnership with the following agencies:

- 9 a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 10 b. Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 11 c. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 12 d. Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and
- 13 e. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCP)

14 The responsibility of these agencies shall include:

- 15 1. Establishment of nursery and preparation of seedlings;
- 16 2. Site identification and preparation;
- 17 3. Technical support and extension service; and
- 18 4. Monitoring and evaluation.

19 *Sec. 7. Provision of Seedlings.* - The Community Environment and Natural
20 Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resource
21 (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with local government
22 units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank and will serve as
23 ready source of seedlings to be provided to senior high schools, colleges and universities
24 for the implementation of this Act.

25 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd and CHED, in
26 coordination with DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall
27 promulgate and Issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to
28 implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.

1 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
2 Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments/agencies in the
3 annual General Appropriations Act.

4 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act be declared
5 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force
6 and effect

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

10 *Sec. 12. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
11 publication in at least two newspapers of general publication.

Approved,