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SENATE S.B. No. 785	٣	RECEIVED BY :	

# Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

### **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

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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:

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Greening of Philippine Highways Act".

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

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

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

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

Section 6. AI1 laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

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

Approved,