

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4975



Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a manifestation of support to this timely piece of legislation, this representation respectfully refiles this measure, which has constantly been receiving support from the past and present Congress.

Article II Section 16 of the Constitution provides 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. In accordance with this constitutional policy, the proposed measure aims to establish a Green-collar Jobs Council under the Department of Labor and Employment.

Green-collar jobs play a vital role in preserving the Philippine environment and ensuring its sustainable development. In order to ensure that this field continues to develop, it is only proper to provide for strategic initiatives that will create more green-collar jobs and will make working in the environment protection industry more appealing. Moreover, the proposed measure addresses the need to improve on supplementary areas (e.g. education, information, inter-agency coordination, and stronger LGU involvement, to name a few) necessary in the development and generation of green-collar jobs.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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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 the Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Promoting Green-collar Jobs in the Philippines Act of 2019."

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 other 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.

SECTION 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 vehicles with liquefied petroleum;

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 create 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 saving 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 Representatives, 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 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 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,