

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6002



Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives
Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera

**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY,
HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT
AT LEAST TEN (10) TREE SAPLINGS EACH
AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine 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."* While it is the government's primary duty to protect the environments within its territory to protect the welfare of its citizens, the people has the responsibility to contribute towards the achievement of this goal.

Currently, according to the data provided by the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines loses approximately 47,000 hectares of forest cover every year.¹ From the original forest cover in the 1900s, the country is now down to less than 24 percent causing adverse effects to the Philippine ecology such as worsening air pollution and climate change.

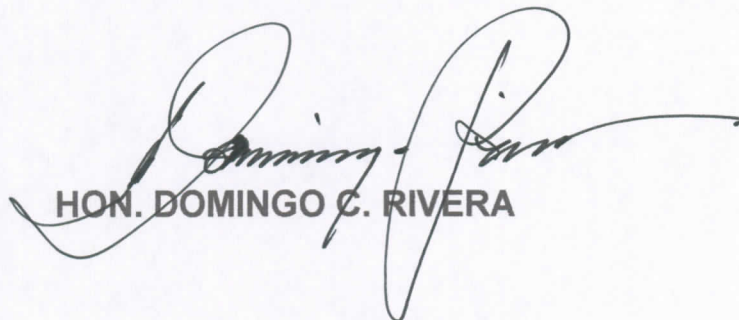
This bill seeks to aid the existing programs of the Philippines, such as the National Greening Program and others, by requiring all graduating students in the elementary, high school, and college levels to plant at least ten (10) saplings as pre-requisite to graduation.

¹ 2018 Philippine Forestry Statistics. Foreign Management Bureau. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Through the enactment of this bill, we can expect millions of trees every year, thereby achieving a greener environment and investing for a greener future while instilling environmental awareness and responsibility to the younger generation of Filipinos.



HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA

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*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 “*Graduation Legacy for the*
2 *Environment Act of 2019.*”
3
- 4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to pursue programs
5 and projects that promote environmental protection, biodiversity, climate change
6 mitigation, poverty reduction and food security. To this end, the educational system
7 shall be a locus for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources
8 among the young to ensure the cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious
9 citizenry.
10
- 11 **SECTION 3. *Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.*** – All
12 graduating students from grade school, high school, and college shall be required to
13 plant at least ten (10) trees as a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. Said trees
14 shall be their living legacy to the environment and to future generations of Filipinos.
15
- 16 **SECTION 4. *Location.*** – The trees to be planted under this Act shall be located in any
17 of the following areas:
18 (a) Forestlands;
19 (b) Mangrove and protected areas;

- (c) Ancestral domains;
- (d) Civil and military reservations;
- (e) Urban areas under the greening plan of the LGUs;
- (f) Inactive and abandoned mine sites; and
- (g) Other suitable lands.

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

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

- (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- (b) Department of Agriculture (DA)
- (c) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
- (d) Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
- (e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- (f) Department of Health
- (g) Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
- (h) Department of National Defense (DND)
- (i) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- (j) Department of Justice (DOJ)
- (k) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- (l) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) (m) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

- (1) Nursery establishment
- (2) Seedling production and site preparation
- (3) Site identification
- (4) Monitoring and evaluation
- (5) Provision of security, transportation, fire protection amenities and medical support Technical support and extension services

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, the CHED, in coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments/agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with

1 any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended
2 accordingly.

3

4 **SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any portion or provision of this Act be
5 declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other provisions hereof
6 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7

8 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

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11

12 **Approved,**