

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 358

Submitted by the Special Committee on Reforestation and the Committee on Appropriations
on JUN 03 2020

Re : **HOUSE BILL NO. 6931**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 1869, 3352, 3854, 4813
and 6002.

Sponsors: Representatives Elias C. Bulut Jr., Eric Go Yap, Manuel DG Cabochan III, Rufus B.
Rodriguez, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Tyrone D. Agabas, Mark O. Go, Eduardo "Bro Eddie" C.
Villanueva

Mr. Speaker:

The Special Committee on Reforestation and the Committee on Appropriations, to which were
referred House Bill No. 56 introduced by Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III, entitled:

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH
AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION AND FOR OTHER
RELATED PURPOSES

House Bill No. 1869, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE EVERY STUDENT TO PLANT TREES EVERY YEAR

House Bill No. 3352, introduced by Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 3854, introduced by Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 4813, introduced by Rep. Mark O. Go, entitled:

**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**


House Bill No. 6002, introduced by Reps. Eduardo "Bro Eddie" C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera, entitled:

**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**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 6931,
entitled:

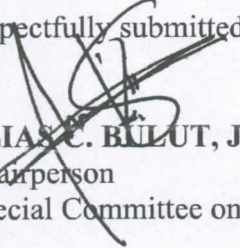
**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC
DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 56, 1869, 3352, 3854, 4813 and 6002 with Reps. Manuel DG Cabochan III, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Tyrone D. Agabas, Mark O. Go, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eduardo "Bro Eddie" C. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Eric Go Yap, Solomon R. Chungalao, Cyrille "Beng" Abueg-Zaldivar, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Joey Sarte Salceda, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Henry S. Oaminal, Roman T. Romulo, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagano, M.D., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Angelo Marcos Barba, and Michael Edgar V. Aglipay as authors thereof


ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Respectfully submitted:


ELIAS C. BULUT, JR.
Chairperson
Special Committee on Reforestation

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6931
(In substitution to HB Nos. 56, 1869, 3352, 3854, 4813 & 6002)

Introduced by Reps. Manuel DG Cabochan III, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Tyrone D. Agabas, Mark O. Go, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eduardo "Bro Eddie" C. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Eric Go Yap, Solomon R. Chungalao, Cyrille "Beng" Abueg-Zaldivar, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Joey Sarte Salceda, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Henry S. Oaminal, Roman T. Romulo, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagano, M.D., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Angelo Marcos Barba, and Michael Edgar V. Aglipay

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:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Graduation Legacy for Reforestation Act."

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 planting as a means of involving the youth in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. *Tree Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.* - As an act of public service before they join the country's labor force, all graduating students in senior high school and college shall plant at least two (2) trees as a prerequisite for graduation.

1 **SEC. 4. *Tree Planting Sites*** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
2 (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall determine the appropriate tree
3 planting sites within the local government's respective areas, in coordination with schools,
4 colleges and universities.

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

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

11 (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

12 (b) Department of Agriculture (DA)

13 (c) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

14 (e) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

15 (f) National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)

16 The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

17 1. Establishment of nursery and seedling preparation

18 2. Site identification and preparation

19 3. Technical support and extension services

20 4. Monitoring and evaluation

21 **SEC. 7. *Provisions of Seedlings.*** – The Community Environment and Natural Resources
22 Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the
23 Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with LGUs throughout the Philippines shall

1 maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be used in the
2 implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - The DepEd, and CHED, in coordination
4 with DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate and issue the
5 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its
6 effectivity.

7 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations***. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
8 shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments and agencies in the annual
9 General Appropriations Act.

10 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause***. - Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared
11 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and
12 effect.

13 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause***. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
14 proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
15 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

16 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity***. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
17 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 *Approved,*
19

House of Representatives Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6931

As approved at the Committee level on 17 December 2019

GRADUATION LEGACY FOR REFORESTATION ACT

Introduced by: Reps. Manuel DG Cabochan III, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Tyrone D. Agabas, Mark O. Go, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eduardo "Bro Eddie" C. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Eric G. Yap, Solomon R. Chungalao, Cyrille "Beng" Abueg-Zaldivar, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano and Abdullah D. Dimaporo

Committee Referral: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

Committee Chairperson: REP. ELIAS C. BULUT, JR.

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote and pursue environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and food security

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates all graduating senior high school and college students to plant at least two (2) trees each as a prerequisite for graduation.
- Encourages the planting of indigenous species, taking into account the location, climate and topography of the area

RELATED LAWS:

- Section 8 of RA 10176 – " An Act reviving the observance of Arbor Day by Authorizing the LGUs the responsibilities for celebrating the day for tree planting as annual event " which provides "xxx All able bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least 12 years of age, shall be required to plant every year"
- Section 2 of PD 1153 – "Requiring the planting of tree every month for five consecutive years by every citizen of the Philippines which provides that " In furtherance of the said policy, every citizen of the Philippines at least ten (10) years of age, actually residing therein, unless physically disabled to do so, shall plant one (1) tree every month for five (5) consecutive years"
- Section 1 of PD 953 – "Requiring the planting of trees in certain places and penalizing the unauthorized cutting, destruction, damaging and injuring of certain tress, plants and vegetation xxx