

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3446**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: **05 SEP 2016**

TIME: **11:25 am**

BY: **ml**

REGISTRATION UNIT  
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO**  
**THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The effects of climate change can now be felt by everyone. The sudden unpredictable weather conditions, typhoons, floods, rising sea water levels and the like. The mangroves that used to protect areas along the coastlines are now gone and the trees that used to hold water from the uplands have disappeared. Admittedly, human activities contributed to this situation as we allowed the denuding of our forests and we are now experiencing the wraths of nature. When strong downpour occurs, floods immediately fill us. Lives and properties have been lost and will continue to claim if we will not do something to prevent, if not mitigate the effects of climate change. Thus, we need to urgently address this situation and avert further harm.

A simple contribution to mitigate the effects of climate change is hereby proposed: tree planting for every child born to couples. With the brisk increase in population, requiring parents of new born children to plant trees will greatly help the environment. Though it cannot be felt right away, the long effect of this proposal may be felt by the future generations.

With the foregoing considerations, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the prevailing climate change and global warming brought about by human activity, and which have been experienced by countries world-wide. Likewise, the State recognizes that in the last three years, typhoons have caused wide-spread flash floods that devastated different areas of the country, claimed thousands of lives, and caused massive damage to properties. Reforestation has thus become a primary concern of the State, which had recently launched the National Greening Program through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Supplemental thereto, it is the policy of the State of involve the Filipino people in the conservation of our natural resources, particularly the State's reforestation project under the National Greening Program, and in the process, encourage tree planting as part of the family's concern and responsibility, thereby reviving the Filipino tradition – whereby parents, as a sign of love for their children, plant trees for them; and in turn, their children will take care of these trees as a sign of love, respect, and as living memories for their parents.

1       **SEC. 3. *Mandatory Family Tree Planting.*** - Each couple residing in the  
2 Philippines, shall be required to plant or cause to plant two (2) trees for every child  
3 born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their family home.  
4 If the same is not possible, the same shall be planted in the areas to be designated  
5 by the concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resources to be designated  
6 by the concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)  
7 where they reside.

8  
9       **SEC. 4. *Ownership of trees.*** - Ownership of the trees planted pursuant to  
10 this Act shall pertain to the parents or the child for whom the trees were planted,  
11 regardless of location, including those planted in public lands or along highways.

12  
13       **SEC. 5. *Joint Affidavit Attesting to Compliance.*** - As prerequisite for the  
14 release of the birth certificate by the City or Municipality where the child was born,  
15 the Local Civil Registrar of the said City or Municipality shall require an affidavit over  
16 the child attesting that they have planted two (2) trees in compliance with the  
17 requirement of this Act, and sworn before the Punong Barangay where they reside if  
18 the trees were planted within the premises of the family home, or before the  
19 appropriate legal officer of the PENRO or CENRO if the trees were planted in  
20 Government sites.

21  
22       **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of  
23 Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations  
24 to carry into effect the purpose of this Act.

25  
26       **SEC. 7. *Penal Provision.*** - Any violation of this Act by any civil registrar  
27 shall be penalized by a suspension for fifteen (15) days or fine of Five thousand  
28 Pesos (P5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, for the first offense;  
29 suspension of one (1) month or a fine of Ten thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both,  
30 at the discretion of the court, for the second offense; and for the third offense, the  
31 erring Local Civil Registrar shall be dismissed from the office. The prosecution of  
32 violations committed by the erring Local Civil Registrar shall be without prejudice to  
33 the filing of a criminal case against the guilty parents or parent.

1           **SEC. 8. *Appropriation.*** – The sums necessary for the implementation of this  
2 Act, including but not limited to the seedlings to be planted pursuant to this Act shall  
3 be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.  
4

5           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days following  
6 the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
7 circulation.  
8

9           *Approved,*