

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3632**



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change is now considered as one of the most fundamental challenges that humanity needs to face. Climate includes patterns of temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind and seasons. Climate change affects more than just a change in the weather, it refers to seasonal changes over a long period of time.

The climate patterns play a fundamental function in shaping natural ecosystems, and the human economies and cultures that depend on them. Since various systems are attached to climate, a change in climate may affect many related aspects of where and how people, animals, and plants live, such as production of food, availability and use of water, and threats to health.

Thus, climate change is very alarming – it can also affect biodiversity, sea level, agriculture, forestry, water resources and availability, energy use and transportation.

In order to avert the worsening climate impacts and reduce the man-made greenhouse gas emissions, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must continue its National Greening Program, a climate change mitigation strategy that aims to enhance the country's forest stock to absorb carbon dioxide, which is largely blamed for global warming. It is also intended to reduce poverty, providing alternative livelihood activities for marginalized upland and lowland households relating to seedling production, care and maintenance of newly-planted trees.

There are several impacts of climate change that could delay the realization of targets set under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and thus, sustainable development. A key to ensuring sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and achieving


economic growth is through the collective action of the citizens.

As a way of protecting our environment and helping the state in achieving its goals, this measure requires parents to plant one (1) seedling for every child born to them.

According to the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, an average of 4,791 babies are born daily. This is 200 babies per hour. A total of 1,748,857 births are registered in 2014. Requiring every parent to plant one (1) seedling for every child born to them will result to almost 2,000,000 seedlings planted annually. This significant number of seedlings to be planted as result of this measure will reduce the trees and seedlings needed to be planted by the DENR through its Enhanced National Greening Program.

Furthermore, as a child grows, so does the seedling. The connection between the child and their seedling leads to increased environmental consciousness and care. It will also develop the citizens' awareness and empower the parents and their children into realizing that a simple act can make a difference and that they can contribute in reaching the state's goals to protect the environment and its people.

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



MARK O. GO

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

*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 “One Seedling for every Child Born Act of 2016”

SECTION 2. **Declaration of policy.** – Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 3. **Planting one (1) seedling for every child born.** – To protect and preserve the environment, every couple residing in the Philippines, whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant one seedling for every child born to them. The seedling shall be planted within the premises of their own home or in an area to be designated by the Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The planted species should be appropriate to the site such as indigenous species, high value crops, fruit trees, bamboo or mangrove species.

SECTION 4. **Seedling planting as an additional requirement for birth certificate release.** – To ensure the compliance to this Act, the City or Municipal Local Civil Registry where the birth of the child shall be registered, must only release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child upon the presentation of the parent's sworn statement of compliance. The affidavit must be sworn before the Punong Barangay if the seedling was planted within the premises of their barangay or before the DENR officer concerned if the seedling was planted in a government-designated area outside

the barangay where the family resides. Planting of the seedling must be done within ninety (90) days after the child's birth.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The necessary budget to implement this Act, including but not limited to the seedlings to be planted pursuant to this act, shall be included in the annual budget of the DENR through the Enhanced National Greening Program.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau and Forest Management Bureau shall create the Implementing Rules and Regulations within sixty (60) days from the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of implementations, rules and regulations or part or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – Should any portions or provisions of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other portions or provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,