

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5549



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ELISA T. KHO, M.D.**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Planting trees is beneficial to the earth in the face of accelerating climate change. Increased human activity is believed to be causing global warming. Major reduction of forest resources over the years contributed to the problem of climate change. As we plant trees, they substantially reduce the concentration of harmful gasses that are responsible for global warming.

At a local level, tree-planting should be promoted especially in the family. As the family grows, human activity increases. With each child born to the family, the child is a potential contributor to global warming.

This bill would be requiring the parents to plant a tree for each child born to their family. The tree planting activity involves the family as a partner in the solution of the global warming problem. It increases their awareness about climate change and the need to address the same as this has a direct effect on the future of the next generation. It makes the basic social unit an important and powerful agent of change against the threat of global warming.

In view of the importance of this matter, we urgently ask for the passage of this bill.

*Elisa T. Kho*  
**HON. ELISA T. KHO, M.D.**

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT ONE TREE FOR EVERY CHILD BORN**  
**TO THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title** — This Act shall be known as the “Parent’s Tree Planting Act of 2017”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** — It is the declared policy of the State to initiate Reforestation Program in order to mitigate global warming and address climate change. In support of the National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the involvement of all Filipinos are enjoined for the program to succeed. As the Filipino family grows, each member of the family would be a carbon footprint contributor, hence the responsibility of caring for the environment should be a shared responsibility of all, especially the family.

**SECTION 3. Mandatory Family Tree Planting** — Every couple residing in the Philippines whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant one tree for every child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their family home. If the same is not possible, the same shall be planted in the areas to be designated by the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU) where they reside.

**SECTION 4. Provision of Seedlings** — Each Local Government Unit throughout the Philippines shall maintain a seedling bank and will serve as a ready source of tree seedlings to be provided to couples planting the tree under this Act.

**SECTION 5. Care of Trees.** — The caring and nurturing of the trees planted pursuant to this Act shall fall on the parents, regardless of location, including those planted in public lands or along highways until such time as the trees have reached maturity.

**SECTION 6. Joint Sworn Statement Attesting to Compliance.** — As a prerequisite for the release of the Certificate of Live Birth of the child, the Local Civil Registrar of the City or Municipality where the birth of a child shall be registered shall require a sworn statement executed by both parents, or by the solo parent exercising parental authority over the child, stating that they have planted a tree in compliance with the requirement of this Act, and sworn before the Punong Barangay where they reside if the trees were planted within the premises of the family home, or before the appropriate Punong Barangay where the trees were planted in other sites.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry into effect the purpose of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Penal Provision.** - Any violation of this Act by any Local Civil Registrar shall be penalized by a suspension for 15 days or a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00), or both, upon the discretion of the court, for the first offense; for the second offense, suspension of one month or a fine of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00), or both, upon the discretion of the court; and for the third offense, the Local Civil Registrar shall be dismissed from office. The prosecution of violations committed by the Local Civil Registrar shall be without prejudice to the filing of a criminal case against the guilty parents or parent.

**SECTION 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall be effective fifteen (15] days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved*