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


Respectfully submitted:

ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
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)


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

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

SEC. 6. Partner Agencies and 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 Interior and Local Government (DILG)
(e) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
(f) National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

1. Establishment of nursery and seedling preparation
2. Site identification and preparation
3. Technical support and extension services
4. Monitoring and evaluation

SEC. 7. Provisions of Seedlings. – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with LGUs throughout the Philippines shall
maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be used in the
implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,
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


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 trees, plants and vegetation xxx"