

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4917



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The benefits of the presence of trees in urban areas cannot be gainsaid. Trees nullify the effects of carbon dioxide, which is prevalent in industrialized regions. Trees absorb other potentially harmful gases, such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, from the air and release oxygen. One large tree can provide for a day's supply of oxygen for four people.¹

Trees combat climate change. Excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) caused by many factors is building up in our atmosphere and contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air. Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.² Trees cool the streets and the city by up to 10°F, by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.³ These are just some of the many benefits of trees.

Hence, the government should go for broke in order to protect our urban trees. It is worth the effort.

The swift passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.


PRECIOUS HIPOKITO CASTELO

¹ https://www.google.com.ph/?gfe_rd=cr&ei=WzORWJ2LFpGl8wfsIKi4BA&gws_rd=ssl#q=benefits+of+trees

² <https://www.treepeople.org/resources/tree-benefits>

³ Ibid.

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AN ACT
PROTECTING TREES IN URBAN AREAS AND PROHIBITING THEIR DESTRUCTION
DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND PRESCRIBING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Urban Trees Protection Act."

SEC. 2. It is hereby declared a state policy to protect trees in urban areas and prohibit any and all acts that would result in their destruction in order to preserve ecological balance in the cities.

SEC. 3. All sectors of society are hereby mandated to ensure the protection of urban trees and are prohibited to engage in any activity that would result in their destruction.

SEC. 4. All public and private entities implementing infrastructure projects are hereby instructed to take salvific measures when trees are involved and needed to be protected, including but not limited to transferring them to an ecologically sound environment.

SEC. 5. Anyone found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 6. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,