

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 536

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Deforestation has been identified as one of the causes of flash floods associated with climate change and global warming. It has become a global concern, as more countries are beginning to experience climate changes and its negative effects. In the past three (3) years, typhoons Ondoy, Pedring, and Sendong resulted to wide-spread flash floods due to our denuded forests and inefficient water reservoirs. These typhoons and the flash floods that came with it claimed thousands of lives, left many Filipino families devastated, and sent small and medium-scale businesses in the affected areas reeling to the ground.

As an appropriate solution to this problem, reforestation has become a major and priority concern of the state, through the National Greening Program (NGP) recently launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nevertheless, reforestation should also be the concern of every citizen and residents alike.

As an effort of every citizen to help in the reforestation crusade of the State, this measure requires the planting of two (2) trees for every child born of a couple, one (1) tree for the father and another tree for the mother.

The number of trees to be planted as a result of this bill will be very significant, and it will effectively supplement the 1.5 billion trees to be planted by the DENR through its NGP, taking into account the thousands of babies that are born and Human Development Report statistics almost 2 million

babies are born in the Philippines every year, 166,667 every month and 5,556 every day; thereby assuring no less than 4 million trees yearly.

Furthermore, it will serve to develop the people's awareness of the need for reforestation and to 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, will 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.

To ensure compliance with this compulsory measure, the couple is required to execute a Joint Affidavit of Compliance sworn to before the Punong Barangay of the place where they reside, or the appropriate legal officer of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the area where they reside. Thereafter, this joint-affidavit shall be submitted to the Civil Registrar's Office of the Municipality or City where the birth of the child should be registered as a requirement for the release of the child's Certificate of Live Birth.

Because of the merits of this measure and the urgency of reforestation, it is hoped that this bill will get the support of the colleagues.

  
**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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

*Be 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 “Family Tree Planting Act of 2016”.

**SECTION 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.

**SECTION 3.** *Mandatory Family Tree Planting* — Each couple residing in the Philippines, whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant or cause to plant two (2) trees 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 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources to be designated by the concerned Community Environment and Natural (CENRO) where they reside.

**SECTION 4.** *Ownership of trees.* — Ownership of the trees planted pursuant to this Act shall pertain to the parents or the child for whom the trees were planted, regardless of location, including those planted in public lands or along highways.

**SECTION 5.** *Joint Affidavit Attesting to Compliance* – As prerequisite for the release of the birth certificate by the City or Municipality where the child was born, the Local Civil Registrar of the said City or Municipality shall require an affidavit executed by both parents, or by the solo parent exercising parental authority over the child, attesting that they have planted two (2) trees 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 legal officer of the PENRO or CENRO if the trees were planted in Government sites.

**SECTION 6.** *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 7.** *Penal Provision* – Any violation of this Act by any civil registrar shall be penalized by a suspension for 15 days or fine of Five thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, for the first offense; suspension of one month or a fine of Ten thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, for the second offense; and for the third offense, the erring Local Civil Registrar shall be dismissed from the office. The prosecution of violations committed by the erring Local Civil Registrar shall be without prejudice to the filing of a criminal case against the guilty parents or parent.

**SECTION 8.** *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.

**SECTION 9.** *Appropriation*– The sums necessary for the implementation of this act, including but not limited to the seedlings to be planted pursuant to this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**APPROVED.**