COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1007

Submitted by the Special Committee on Reforestation and the Committee on Appropriations on DEC 05, 2018

Re: House Bill No. 8728

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1154 and 3132

Sponsors: Representatives Noel Villanueva, Gary Alejano and Maria Carmen Zamora

Madam Speaker:

The Special Committee on Reforestation and the Committee on Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. 1154 introduced by Rep. Gary Alejano, 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"

and House Bill No. 3132 introduced by Rep. Strike Revilla, entitled:

"AN ACT
REQUIRING EVERY STUDENT TO PLANT TREES EVERY YEAR"

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8728, 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"

Respectfully submitted:

MARIA CARMEN S. ZAMORA
Senior Vice-Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

NOEL L. VILLANUEVA
Chairperson
Special Committee on Reforestation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8728

Introduced by Representatives Gary Alejano, Strike Revilla, Noel Villanueva, Joseph Stephen Paduano, Mark Go, Pablo Ortega, Maria Vida Bravo, Maria Carmen Zamora, Ma. Lourdes Aggabao, Jose Tajeada, Raul del Mar, Celso Lobregat, Shernee Tan, Jorge Almonte, Emi Calixto-Rubiano, Fernando Gonzalez, Ma. Lucille Nava, Allen Jesse Mangaoang, Eleanor Bulut-Begtang, Divina Grace Yu, Carlito Marquez, Ansaruddin A.M.A. Adiong, Edgar Mary Sarmiento, Lorna Silverio, Virgilio Lacson, Edeel Lagman, Cecilia Leonida Chavez, Wilfredo Caminero, Teodoro Montoro, Carlos Roman Uybarreta, Romeo Acop, Micaela Violago and Francis Gerald Abaya

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to pursue programs and projects that promote environmental protection, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, poverty reduction and food security. To this end, the educational system shall be a locus for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among the young to ensure the cultivation of a socially-responsible and conscious citizenry.
SEC. 3. Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation. – All graduating students from grade school, high school, and college shall be required to plant at least ten (10) trees as a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. Said trees shall be their living legacy to the environment and to future generations of Filipinos.

SEC. 4. Location. – The trees to be planted under this Act shall be located in any of the following areas

(a) Forestlands
(b) Mangrove and protected areas
(c) Ancestral domains
(d) Civil and military reservations
(e) Urban areas under the greening plan of the local government units (LGUs)
(f) Inactive and abandoned mine sites; and
(g) Other suitable lands

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

SEC. 6. Partner Agencies/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 Agrarian Reform (DAR)
(d) Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
(e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
(f) Department of Health (DOH)
(g) Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
(h) Department of National Defense (DND)
(i) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
(j) Department of Justice (DOJ)
(k) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
(l) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
(m) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

1. Nursery establishment
2. Seedling production and site preparation
3. Site identification
4. Monitoring and evaluation
5. Provision of security, transportation, fire protection amenities and medical support
6. Technical support and extension services

SEC. 7. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DepEd, the CHED, in coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.
SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments/agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. – Should any potion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other provisions hereof shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
HOUSE BILL NO. 8728

(In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 1154 and 3132)
(Approved by the Special Committee on Reforestation on 05 December 2017)

AN ACT
REQUIREING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST (10) TREES EACH AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES GARY ALEJANO, STRIKE REVILLA AND NOEL VILLANUEVA

Committee Referral: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION
Committee Chairperson: NOEL L. VILLANUEVA

OBJECTIVE:

• To require all graduating elementary, high school and college students to plant at least ten (10) trees each as a prerequisite for graduation in order to promote and pursue environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation for poverty reduction and food security

KEY PROVISIONS:

• Mandates all graduating elementary, high school and college students to plant at least ten (10) 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:

• Presidential Decree No. 1153 – Requiring The Planting of One Tree Every Month For Five Consecutive Years By Every Citizen of the Philippines