

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
5884
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **Hon. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This House Bill was previously filed by Representative Frederick F. Abueg as House Bill (H.B.) No. 5284 in the 16th Congress and as H.B. No. 4761 during the 17th Congress. Both bills were referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. This present bill is now a reiteration *in toto* of the previous legislative measures filed, explained as follows:

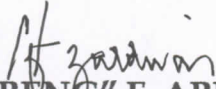
"The proposed bill seeks to authorize the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), having jurisdiction over the parcel subject of the application, to issue tree cutting permits to landowners for the cutting, gathering and utilization of naturally grown trees in private and/or titled lands subject to the guidelines of the DENR.

Moreover, this bill also aims to expedite the process of cutting dead and infected trees which pose danger to the lives and properties of owners and to provide them the freedom, within their titled lots, to make use of naturally grown trees for personal and private purposes only. If the cutting is inevitable and only the last resort in the implementation of a project or construction of an infrastructure within the private land of the owner, this bill likewise addresses such concern.

Lastly, while we take cognizance of the issuance of Executive Order (E.O.) No. 23 by President Benigno S. Aquino III which declared a moratorium on the cutting of trees to protect the remaining forest cover areas of the country, the safety of the citizens paired with the necessity to cut trees within private

and/or titled lands for personal purposes are often overlooked. Additionally, since the current requisite prior to the issuance of tree-cutting permit involves joint efforts of the local government units concerned, DENR Regional Office and/or the DENR Central Office, the pace is rather slow resulting to a bottleneck in these offices and non-issuance of permits to well-intentioned applications."

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE (CENRO) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PARCEL OF LAND SUBJECT OF THE APPLICATION, TO ISSUE TREE-CUTTING PERMITS TO LANDOWNERS FOR THE CUTTING, GATHERING AND UTILIZATION OF NATURALLY GROWN TREES IN PRIVATE AND/OR TITLED LANDS SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act authorizes the Community Environment and
2 Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and
3 Natural Resources (DENR), having jurisdiction over the parcel subject of the
4 application, to issue tree-cutting permits to landowners for the cutting,
5 gathering and utilization of naturally grown trees in private and/or titled lands
6 subject to the guidelines of the Department of Environment and Natural
7 Resources.

8 SEC. 2. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue
9 the necessary rules, orders and circulars to implement the provisions of this
10 Act.

11 SEC. 3. All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations
12 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
13 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

14 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15 *Approved,*