

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
S. B. No. 174

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Introduced by Senator Sergio Osmeña III

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, as signatory and party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), recognizes the establishment of various maritime zones and jurisdictions of coastal states over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised.

This bill is a general declaration of and defines the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines over which the Philippines exercises sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights consistent with the UNCLOS.

In order to effectuate the ends for which the Philippines, as a sovereign coastal state, entered into as signatory and party to the UNCLOS, and for the preservation and protection of its maritime rights, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

*S. Osmeña III*  
SERGIO OSMEÑA III  
Senator



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S E N A T E  
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AN ACT  
TO DEFINE THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “An Act to  
2 Define the Maritime Zones of the Republic of the Philippines”, otherwise known  
3 as the Philippine Maritime Zones Act.

4           **SECTION 2.** The maritime zones of the Philippines are comprised of the  
5 Internal waters, Archipelagic waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive  
6 Economic Zone (EEZ) and Continental Shelf. All territories of the Philippines  
7 generate their respective maritime zones in accordance with international law.

8           **SECTION 3.** Internal Waters of the Philippines refers to the:

9           (a) waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming  
10           part of Archipelagic Waters under Section 4 hereof and delimited in  
11           accordance with Article 50 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on  
12           the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and/or

13           (b) waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of  
14           territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.

15           The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its Internal Waters and the  
16           airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the 1982

1 Unites Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other existing  
2 laws and treaties.

3 **SECTION 4.** The Archipelagic Waters of the Philippines refers to the  
4 waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as provided for  
5 under Section 3 hereof.

6 Within the archipelagic waters, closing lines for the delineation of internal  
7 water shall be drawn pursuant to Article 50 of the UNCLOS and other existing  
8 laws and treaties.

9 **SECTION 5.** The Territorial Sea of the Philippines shall be the belt of sea  
10 measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low water  
11 line, as the case may be.

12 The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its territorial sea and the  
13 airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with UNCLOS  
14 and other existing laws and treaties.

15 **SECTION 6.** The Contiguous Zone of the Philippines refers to the waters  
16 beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea and up to the extent of 24 nautical  
17 miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case may be.

18 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this zone in accordance  
19 with UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

20 **SECTION 7.** The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippines  
21 refers to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the  
22 extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-  
23 water line, as the case may be.

24 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the  
25 right to explore and exploit living and non-living, organic or non-organic  
26 resources in accordance with UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

27 **SECTION 8.** The Continental Shelf of the Philippines comprises the  
28 seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea  
29 throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the

1 continental margin, or to a distance of two-hundred (200) nautical miles from the  
2 baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where the  
3 outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

4 Continental shelves extending beyond two-hundred (200) nautical miles  
5 from the baselines shall be delineated in accordance with Article 76 of the  
6 UNCLOS.

7 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the  
8 right to explore and exploit living and non-living, organic or non-organic  
9 resources in accordance with UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

10 **SECTION 9.** Other rights of the Philippines not referred to in this Act shall  
11 be exercised in accordance with international law and the laws and regulations  
12 of the Philippines.

13 **SECTION 10.** If maritime zones of the Philippines overlap with the  
14 maritime zones claimed by other countries, the Philippines may delimit these  
15 zones and endeavor to resolve the overlap in accordance with means  
16 recognized under international law.

17 **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws inconsistent with or contrary  
18 to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed  
19 accordingly.

20 **SECTION 12. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this  
21 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof  
22 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23 **SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
24 days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of  
25 general circulation.

26 Approved,