



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4889

BY REPRESENTATIVES BICHARA, ACEDILLO, BIAZON, ZUBIRI, COLLANTES,
CORTUNA, GATCHALIAN (S.), SEÑERES, DEL MAR, ORTEGA (V.),
RODRIGUEZ (R.), ARNALZ, ANGPING, BELLO (W.), GARCIA (G.) AND
RODRIGUEZ (M.)

AN ACT DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
2 Maritime Zones Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Maritime Zones.* – The maritime zones of the Philippines
4 shall be comprised of its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea,
5 contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. All
6 territories of the Philippines shall generate their respective maritime zones in
7 accordance with international law.

8 SEC. 3. *Archipelagic Baselines.* – Archipelagic baselines, as used in
9 this Act, shall refer to the baselines as defined under Republic Act No. 9522,
10 entitled: “An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046, as

1 Amended by Republic Act No. 5446, to Define the Archipelagic Baselines of
2 the Philippines, and for Other Purposes”.

3 SEC. 4. *Internal Waters.* – The internal waters of the Philippines shall
4 refer to the:

5 (a) Waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not
6 forming part of archipelagic waters under Section 5 hereof and delimited in
7 accordance with Article 50 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law
8 of the Sea (UNCLOS); and/or

9 (b) Waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of
10 territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.

11 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its internal waters and
12 the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the
13 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

14 SEC. 5. *Archipelagic Waters.* – The archipelagic waters of the
15 Philippines shall refer to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic
16 baselines except as provided for under Section 4 hereof.

17 Within the archipelagic waters, closing lines for the delimitation of
18 internal waters shall be drawn pursuant to Article 50 of the UNCLOS and other
19 existing laws and treaties.

20 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over its
21 archipelagic waters and the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in
22 accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

23 SEC. 6. *Territorial Sea.* – The territorial sea of the Philippines shall
24 refer to the belt of sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines
25 or from the low-water line, as the case may be.

26 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its territorial sea and the
27 airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the
28 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

1 SEC. 7. *Contiguous Zone.* – The contiguous zone of the Philippines
2 shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the
3 extent of twenty-four (24) nautical miles from the baselines from which the
4 breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

5 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this zone in
6 accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

7 SEC. 8. *Exclusive Economic Zone.* – The exclusive economic zone
8 (EEZ) of the Philippines shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its
9 territorial sea and up to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the
10 baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

11 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including
12 the right to explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic
13 resources in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and
14 treaties.

15 SEC. 9. *Continental Shelf.* – The continental shelf of the Philippines
16 shall be comprised of the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend
17 beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land
18 territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of two
19 hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the
20 territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does
21 not extend up to that distance.

22 Continental shelves extending beyond two hundred (200) nautical miles
23 from the baselines shall be delineated in accordance with Article 76 of the
24 UNCLOS.

25 The Philippines shall exercise sovereign rights over this area including
26 the right to explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic
27 resources in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and
28 treaties.

1 SEC. 10. *Adherence to Existing Laws.* -- Other rights of the
2 Philippines not stipulated in this Act shall be exercised in accordance with
3 international law and the laws and regulations of the Philippines.

4 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* -- If any portion or provision of this
5 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions
6 hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* -- All laws inconsistent with or contrary
8 to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed
9 accordingly.

10 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
11 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers
12 of general circulation.

Approved,

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