



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4185

BY REPRESENTATIVES GOLEZ (R.), AUMENTADO, BICHARA, DEL ROSARIO (A.G.), DE VENECIA, ANTONINO, JALOSJOS (S.), ARAGO, GULLAS, BIAZON, MANDANAS, LIMKAICHONG, ROMAN, VILLARICA, BALINDONG, COLLANTES, GARAY, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, JAAFAR, LACSON-NOEL, ARNAIZ, COJUANGCO (E.), AGGABAO, ALVAREZ (A.), GARCIA (P.J.), QUISUMBING, SOCRATES, FERRER (A.), ARQUIZA, FABIAN, MARCOS, BONDOC, BELLO, BIRON, ZUBIRI, ROMULO, BATOCABE, TUGNA, CORTUNA, VILLAR, COLMENARES, VILLAFUERTE, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (G.), ORTEGA (V.), ARROYO (I.), QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO, YAP (A.), BATAOIL, PADILLA, RODRIGUEZ (R.) AND CARI

AN ACT TO DEFINE 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. This Act shall be known as "The Philippine Maritime
2 Zones Act".

3 SEC. 2. The maritime zones of the Philippines shall be comprised of
4 the internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone,
5 exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. All territories of the

1 Philippines shall generate their respective maritime zones in accordance with
2 international law.

3 SEC. 3. Internal waters of the Philippines shall refer to the:

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

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

10 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its internal waters and
11 the airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the
12 1982 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

13 SEC. 4. The archipelagic waters of the Philippines shall refer to the
14 waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as provided
15 for under Section 3 hereof.

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

19 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over its
20 archipelagic waters in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws
21 and treaties.

22 SEC. 5. The territorial sea of the Philippines shall refer to the belt of
23 the sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the
24 low-water line, as the case may be.

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

1 SEC. 6. The contiguous zone of the Philippines shall refer to the waters
2 beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-four
3 (24) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case
4 may be.

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

7 SEC. 7. The EEZ of the Philippines shall refer to the waters beyond and
8 adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical
9 miles from the baselines or from the low-water line, as the case may be.

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

14 SEC. 8. The continental shelf of the Philippines shall be comprised of
15 the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial
16 sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of
17 the continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles
18 from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured,
19 where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that
20 distance.

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

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

1 SEC. 9. Other rights of the Philippines not stipulated in this Act shall
2 be exercised in accordance with international law and the laws and regulations
3 of the Philippines.

4 SEC. 10. If the maritime zones of the Philippines overlap with the
5 maritime zones claimed by other countries, the Philippines shall delimit these
6 zones and endeavor to resolve the overlaps according to the recognized means
7 under international law.

8 SEC. 11. All laws inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
9 Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

10 SEC. 12. If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
11 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof not affected
12 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

Approved,

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