



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4889



Introduced by Representatives Al Francis C. Bichara, Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo,
Rodolfo G. Biazon and Jose F. Zubiri III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

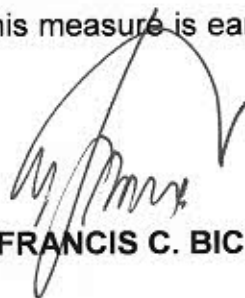
The Philippines, as a signatory and party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), recognizes the establishment of various maritime zones and jurisdictions of coastal states, including its own, over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised.

The bill is a general declaration and definition of the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

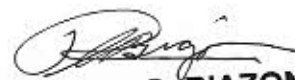
As such, the passage of this proposed legislative measure aims to provide for the necessary flexibility in the enactment of subsequent laws pertinent to the rights and obligations to which the Philippines is entitled and may exercise over its maritime zones in accordance with the UNCLOS.

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


FRANCISCO ASHLEY L. ACEDILLO


AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA


JOSE F. ZUBIRI III


RODOLFO G. BIAZON



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4889**

Introduced by Representatives Al Francis C. Bichara, Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo,
Rodolfo G. Biazon and Jose F. Zubiri III

**AN ACT TO DEFINE THE MARITIME ZONES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

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

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

9
10 **SEC. 3. Archipelagic Baselines.** – Archipelagic baselines, as used in this
11 Act, shall refer to the baselines as defined under Republic Act No. 9522 entitled, “An
12 Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046, as amended by Republic
13 Act No. 5446, To Define the Archipelagic Baselines of the Philippines and For Other
14 Purposes”.

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

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

7
8 b) Waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of
9 territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.

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

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

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

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

26
27 **SEC. 6. *Territorial Sea.*** – The territorial sea of the Philippines shall refer to
28 the belt of sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the
29 low-water line, as the case may be.

30
31 The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over its territorial sea and the
32 airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS
33 and other existing laws and treaties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30
31 **SEC. 10. Adherence to Existing Laws.** – Other rights of the Philippines not
32 stipulated in this Act shall be exercised in accordance with international law and the
33 laws and regulations of the Philippines.

1 **SEC. 11. *Overlapping Maritime Zones.*** – If the maritime zones of the
2 Philippines overlap with the maritime zones claimed by other countries, the
3 Philippines shall delimit these zones and endeavor to resolve the overlaps according
4 to the recognized means under international law.
5

6 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
7 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof not
8 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
9

10 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws inconsistent with or contrary to the
11 provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
12

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

Approved,