



**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7467



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

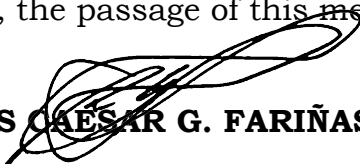
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to define Maritime Zones under Republic Act No. 9522, entitled “*An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046, as Amended by Republic Act No. 5446, To Define the Archipelagic Baselines of the Philippines, and For Other Purposes.*” The measure also seeks to define Maritime Zones consistent with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The specific definitions made under this bill are the following:

- Archipelagic Baselines
- Internal Waters
- Archipelagic Waters
- Territorial Sea
- Contiguous Zone
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Continental Shelf

Hence, the passage of this measure is sought.


RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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**AN ACT
DECLARING AND DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Maritime
2 Zones Act.”
3

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

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

15 SEC. 4. **Internal Waters.** – The internal waters of the Philippines refer to the:
16

- 17 a. Waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part
18 of archipelagic waters under Section 5 of this Act and delimited in
19 accordance with Article 50 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the
20 Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and
21
22 b. Waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of
23 territories outside of the archipelagic baselines.
24

1 The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its internal waters and the airspace
2 over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and
3 other existing laws and treaties.

4
5 SEC. 5. **Archipelagic Waters.** – The archipelagic waters of the Philippines refer
6 to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines except as
7 provided for under Section 4 of this Act.

8
9 Within the archipelagic waters, closing lines for the delimitation of internal
10 waters shall be drawn pursuant to Article 50 of the UNCLOS and other existing
11 laws and treaties.

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

16
17 SEC. 6. **Territorial Sea.** – The territorial sea of the Philippines refers to the belt
18 of sea measured twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines or from the low-
19 water line, as the case may be.

20
21 The Philippines exercises sovereignty over its territorial sea and the airspace over
22 it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other
23 existing laws and treaties.

24
25 SEC. 7. **Contiguous Zone.** – The contiguous zone of the Philippines refers to the
26 waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent of twenty-
27 four (24) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the
28 territorial sea is measured.

29
30 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this zone in accordance with the
31 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

32
33 SEC. 8. **Exclusive Economic Zone.** – The exclusive economic zone of the
34 Philippines refers to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up
35 to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles from the baselines from which
36 the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

37
38 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the right to
39 explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in
40 accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

41
42 SEC. 9. **Continental Shelf.** – The continental shelf of the Philippines comprises
43 the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial
44 sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of
45 the continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical miles from
46 the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where
47 the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

48
49 Continental shelves extending beyond two hundred (200) nautical miles from the
50 baselines shall be delineated in accordance with Article 76 of the UNCLOS.

51
52 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this area including the right to
53 explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources in
54 accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

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

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

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

11
12 SEC. 13. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the Official Gazette in a newspaper of general circulation.

14
15 Approved,