

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 5760



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES JOSEPH KIM C. YU, JEYZEL VICTORIA C. YU**
and **MARIA KRISTINA JIHAN B. GLEPA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7916, also known as “The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995,” was enacted to encourage investments, generate employment, and promote industrial and commercial growth through the establishment of Special Economic Zones (ECOZONES).

Section 5 of the Act currently identifies specific areas for initial ECOZONE designation, including a portion of the Municipality of Pitogo in Zamboanga del Sur. However, despite the law being in effect for nearly thirty (30) years, Pitogo has not been able to submit the necessary documentation and requirements to qualify as an ECOZONE.

Limiting the designation to a single municipality restricts the province’s broader potential for economic development. Hence, this bill proposes to amend Section 5 by replacing the reference to “Municipality of Pitogo” with “any portion of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur.” This amendment will allow other municipalities within the province to qualify for ECOZONE status, provided they meet the criteria outlined in Section 6 of the Act.

This amendment is intended to encourage equitable economic opportunities across all municipalities in Zamboanga del Sur to attract diverse investments tailored to their unique strengths.

Approval of this measure will unlock new avenues for growth in the province.


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1st District, Zamboanga del Sur


JEYZEL VICTORIA C. YU
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MARIA KRISTINA JIHAN B. GLEPA
ONE-COOP Partylist

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
(PEZA) TO ATTRACT STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, PROMOTE CLIMATE-
RESILIENT AND DIGITAL ECONOMY ZONES, ENHANCE INCENTIVES, AND
AMEND FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS “THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995,” AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8748**

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

Section 1. Chapter I, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7916 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 5. Establishment of ECOZONES. – To ensure the viability and geographical dispersal of ECOZONES through a system of prioritization, the following areas are initially identified as ECOZONES, subject to the criteria specified in Section 6:

(v) *So much as may be necessary of that portion of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur;*

Section 2. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,