

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1118

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**  
**HON. GARY C. ALEJANO**

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**Explanatory Note**

Article I of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that:

*"The national territory comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction, consisting of its terrestrial, fluvial and aerial domains, including its territorial sea, the seabed, the subsoil, the insular shelves, and other submarine areas. The waters around, between, and connecting the islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions, form part of the internal waters of the Philippines."*

Pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), of which the Philippines is a signatory and a party, our country and other coastal States has been recognized to have the right to establish various maritime zones and jurisdictions over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised. Given the premise, this bill seeks to have a general declaration and definition of the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines

This proposed legislation has the aim of preserving and protecting the country's maritime rights, as it mentions in general terms the rights that the Philippines may exercise over its maritime zones. Establishing the extent of the limits of the maritime zone of the Philippine archipelago practically averts any unnecessary dispute with vessels of foreign states entering the Philippine maritime territory without our permission.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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

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

13           **SECTION 4. *Internal Waters.*** – The internal waters of the Philippines shall  
14 refer to the:

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

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

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

1           **SECTION 5. *Archipelagic Waters*** – The archipelagic waters of the  
2 Philippines shall refer to the waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines  
3 except as provided for under Section 4 hereof.

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

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

10          **SECTION 6. *Territorial Sea*** – The territorial sea of the Philippines shall  
11 refer to the belt of sea measured twelve (12) nautical mile from the baselines of from  
12 the low-water line, as the case may be.

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

16          **SECTION 7. *Contiguous Zone*** – The contiguous zone of the Philippines  
17 shall refer to the waters beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea and up to the extent  
18 of twenty-four (24) nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the  
19 territorial sea is measured.

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

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

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

29          **SECTION 9. *Continental Shelf*** – The continental shelf of the Philippines  
30 shall be comprised of the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend  
31 beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the  
32 outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of two hundred (200) nautical  
33 miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured,  
34 where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

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

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

4           **SECTION 10. *Adherence to Existing Laws*** – Other rights of the Philippines  
5 not stipulated in this Act shall be exercised in accordance with international law and  
6 the law and regulations of the Philippines.

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

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

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

Approved,