



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3286

Introduced by Honorable LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare and define the maritime zones under the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea Treaty, is the international agreement that resulted from the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982.

The Philippines, as a signatory and party to the 1982 UNCLOS, recognizes the establishment of various maritime zones and jurisdiction of coastal states, including its own over which sovereignty and appurtenant sovereign rights can be exercised. Thus, the Philippines exercises sovereignty over its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and airspace over it as well as its seabed and subsoil in accordance with the UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties. The Philippines also exercises sovereign rights over its contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf including the right to explore and exploit living and nonliving, organic or nonorganic resources.

A similar bill, House Bill No. 4889 authored by the Honorable Al Francis C. Bichara was filed and approved on Third Reading during the Sixteenth Congress.

This present bill will also provide for the necessary flexibility in the passage of subsequent laws pertinent to the rights and obligations to which the Philippines is entitled and may exercise over its maritime zones.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.

Linabelle R. Villarica



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HOUSE BILL NO. 3286

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

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

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

1 a) Waters on the landward side of the archipelagic baselines not forming part of
2 archipelagic waters under Section 5 of this Act and delimited in accordance with Article 50
3 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and

4 b) Waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea of territories
5 outside of the archipelagic baselines.

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

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

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

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

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-water line, as
19 the case may be.

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

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

1 The Philippines exercises sovereign rights over this zone in accordance with the
2 UNCLOS and other existing laws and treaties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Villarica", is positioned to the right of the "Approved," text.