

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT NO. 29 OF 1962 TO  
REVIEW PENALTIES AND FINES PROVIDED THEREIN AND FOR OTHER  
RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Saheed Akinlade-Fijabi*

[ ] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly, Federal Republic of  
Nigeria as follows:

- |    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | 1. The Official Secrets Act No. 29 of 1962 (in this Bill called "the           | Amendment of       |
| 2  | Principal Act") is hereby amended as set out below.                            | Official Secrets   |
|    |  | Act No. 29 of 1962 |
| 3  | 2. Section 4, subsection (1) (b) of the Principal Act is amended by            | Amendment of       |
| 4  | inserting the words "electronic mails" immediately after the word              | Section 4 of the   |
|    |  | Principal Act      |
| 5  | "packages" in line 2 of the subsection.  |                    |
| 6  | 3. Section 4 of the Principal Act is further amended in subsection             |                    |
| 7  | (2) by deleting the fine of N100 in line 4 of that subsection and replacing it |                    |
| 8  | with the fine of N50,000.  |                    |
| 9  | 4. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting subsection            | Amendment of       |
| 10 | (2) of that Section in its entirety.   | Section 6 of the   |
|    |  | Principal Act      |
| 11 | 5. Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) (b)             | Amendment of       |
| 12 | by deleting the fine of N200 in line 2 of subsection (1) (b) and replacing it  | Section 7 of the   |
|    |  | Principal Act      |
| 13 | with the fine of N100,000.   |                    |
| 14 | 6. Section 7 of the Principal Act is further amended in subsection             |                    |
| 15 | (2) by deleting the fine of N100 in line 3 of that subsection and replacing it |                    |
| 16 | with the fine of N50,000.  |                    |
| 17 | 7. The Principal Act is further amended in section 9 by replacing              | Amendment of       |
| 18 | the interpretation of the word "Minister" with a more concise interpretation   | Section 9 of the   |
|    |  | Principal Act      |
| 19 | as follows:  |                    |
| 20 | "Minister" means the Minister of Police Affairs.                               |                    |

Short Title            1                    **8. This Bill may be cited as the Official Secrets Act (Amendment)**  
                              2                    **Bill, 2015.**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**This Bill seeks to amend the Official Secrets Act to make provision for review of fines contained therein to reflect present day realities and to further amend certain provisions in the Act to comply with democratic norms.**