

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Tony Nwulu*

[ ] Commencement

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

1           1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in  
2 this Act referred to as "Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.

3           2. Section 65 (1)(a) and (b) is amended by substituting the  
4 provisions with a new provision as follows:

Qualifications for  
Membership of  
National Assembly

5 A person shall be qualified for election as a member of:

6           (a) the Senate, if he/she is a citizen of Nigeria and has attained the  
7 age of thirty years; and

8           (b) the House of Representatives, if he/she is a citizen of Nigeria  
9 and has attained the age of twenty-five years.

10          3. Section 65 (2)(b) is amended by substituting the provision with a  
11 provision as follows:

12 A person shall be qualified for election under subsection (1) of this section  
13 if:

14           (c) he/she is member of a political party and is sponsored by that  
15 party or he/she is an independent candidate.

16          4. Section 106 (b) and (d) is amended by substituting the  
17 provisions with new provision as follows:

Qualifications for  
Membership of  
House of Assembly

18 A person shall be qualified for election as a member of a House of Assembly  
19 if:

20           (b) he/she has attained the age of twenty-five years;

21           (d) he / she is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that

	1	party or he / she is an independent candidate.
Qualifications for election as President	2	<b>5.</b> Section 131 (b) and (c) is amended by substituting the provisions
	3	with new provisions as follows:
	4	A person shall be qualified for election to the office of the President if:
	5	(b) he / she has attained the age of thirty;
	6	(c) he / she is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that
	7	political party or he / she is an independent candidate
Qualifications for election as Governor	8	<b>6.</b> Section 177 (b) and (c) is amended by substituting the provisions
	9	with new provisions' as follows:
	10	A person shall be qualified for election to the office of the Governor of a State
	11	if:
	12	(b) he / she has attained the age of thirty;
	13	(c) he/she is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that
	14	political party or he/she is an independent candidate.
Citation	15	<b>7.</b> This Bill may be cited as Constitution (Alteration) Bill, 2016.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to alter the Section 65, 106, 131, 177 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to reduce the age qualification for the office of the President and Governor and membership of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Bill also seeks to mainstream independent candidacy into Nigeria's electoral process.