

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERIODIC REVISION OF THE LAWS OF THE
FEDERATION OF NIGERIA AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

Sponsored by Senator David Umaru

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(1) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall, at the
2 expiration of a period of 10 years after the last revision of the Laws of the
3 Federation of Nigeria or such earlier period as he may deem necessary, cause
4 a revision exercise of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria or any part
5 thereof to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Power of the
Attorney-General
of the Federation
to periodically
revise Laws of
the Federation
of Nigeria

6 (2) For the purposes of this section, the Attorney-General of the
7 Federation shall, from time to time, by Order published in the Federal
8 Gazette, appoint a Law Revision Committee (in this Act referred to as "the
9 Committee") which shall consist of a Chairman and such other specified
10 number of members to revise the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria in
11 accordance with the provisions of this Act.

12 2.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this section and Section 3 of this
13 Act, the revised edition shall contain:

Contents of the
revised edition,
etc.

14 (a) all Federal enactments in force on the appointed day, and all
15 subsidiary instruments made thereunder and in force on the appointed day;

16 (b) all Federal enactments which have been enacted or
17 promulgated but not yet brought into operation on the appointed day and all
18 subsidiary instruments made thereunder; and

19 (c) a table of contents, a chronological table of enactments and an
20 index.

21 (2) The Committee may in its discretion retain, as if it were part of a

1 Federal enactment, any portion of any enactment which is included in the
2 revised edition, if, in its opinion, such portion (in this Act referred to as "the
3 State Law") cannot conveniently be omitted from the revised edition or if, in its
4 opinion, the retention of such portion would be of utility to the Government of
5 any State, notwithstanding that such portion of the enactment does not have
6 effect as a Federal enactment.

7 (3) The Committee shall, in the preparation of the revised edition,
8 take no account of any earlier revised edition of the Laws of the Federation
9 (including the revised edition prepared under the Revised Edition (Laws of the
10 Federation) Act, 1990 but the Committee shall proceed as if no such edition had
11 ever been prepared.

12 (4) The Committee may cause a different form of printing to be used
13 including any electronic or digital form, so far as it is practicable, in respect of
14 those enactments included in the revised edition which in its opinion are:

15 (a) Federal enactments;

16 (b) State laws.

17 (5) Nothing in this section shall empower the Committee to make any
18 alteration or amendment in the matter or in the substance of any Federal
19 enactment, without the approval of the National Assembly.

Powers of the
Attorney-General
of the Federation
authorize omission
of certain
enactments

20 3.-(1) The Attorney-General of the Federation may by Order specify a
21 Schedule of enactments which it shall not be necessary for the Committee to
22 include in the revised edition upon the grounds that such enactments are:

23 (a) obsolescent;

24 (b) of a temporary nature;

25 (c) under revision with a view to replacement; or

26 (d) of restricted or personal application.

27 (2) Enactments, omitted in accordance with Subsection (1) of this
28 section, shall have the same force and validity as if they had not been omitted in
29 the revised edition.

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| 1 | 4. In the preparation of the revised edition, the Committee shall | Powers of the Committee Schedule |
| 2 | have the powers set out in the Schedule to this Act. | |
| 3 | 5.-(1) The revised edition when brought into force in accordance | Validity and operation of the revised edition |
| 4 | with Section 6 of this Act, shall be and be taken by all courts and for all | |
| 5 | purposes whatsoever to be the authentic edition of Federal enactments | |
| 6 | enacted on or before the appointed day. | |
| 7 | (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to imply the validity | |
| 8 | of any enactment included in the revised edition where such enactment is | |
| 9 | inconsistent with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. | |
| 10 | 6.-(1) Each volume of the revised edition shall be submitted to the | Bringing into force or the revised edition |
| 11 | Federal Executive Council as and when completed for its consideration and | |
| 12 | approval. | |
| 13 | (2) When the revised edition has been printed and bound, the | |
| 14 | Attorney-General may by Order direct that the revised edition shall come | |
| 15 | into force on such date as he thinks fit. | |
| 16 | (3) One copy of each volume of the revised edition shall be dated | |
| 17 | and signed by the members of the Committee and shall be sealed with the | |
| 18 | public seal of the Federation and the copy shall be transmitted to the Chief | |
| 19 | Justice of Nigeria who shall deposit the same among the records of the | |
| 20 | Supreme Court of Nigeria. | |
| 21 | 7. The Accountant-General of the Federation shall, upon warrant | Expenses |
| 22 | addressed to him by the Minister of Finance, make payment of all expenses | |
| 23 | for and incidental to the preparation, printing and publication of the revised | |
| 24 | edition. | |
| 25 | 8. This Act or any Order for the appointment of the Committee | Act to be reprinted as introduction to the revised edition |
| 26 | shall be reprinted as an introduction to any of the revised edition of the Laws | |
| 27 | of the Federation of Nigeria. | |
| 28 | 9.-(1) The Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation of Nigeria) | Repeal, etc. |
| 29 | Act, 1990 is hereby repealed. | |
| 30 | (2) The repeat of the enactment referred to in Subsection (1) of this | |

1 section shall not affect anything done or purported to have been done under the
2 repealed enactment.

Interpretation

3 10. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

4 "appointed day" means 31st day of December, 2002 for the Laws of the
5 Federation of Nigeria, 2002 and in respect of subsequent revisions any day as
6 the Attorney-General of the Federation may appoint by Order published in the
7 Federal Gazette;

8 "Committee" means the Law Revision Committee established under Section 1
9 of this Act;

10 "enactment" means any provision of an Act and includes any subsidiary
11 instrument made under such Act;

12 "Federal enactment" means:

13 (a) any enactment which is or has effect as if it were a law enacted by
14 any Federal legislature in Nigeria with respect to any matter within its
15 competence; and

16 (b) any Decree promulgated by any previous Military Government
17 with respect to any matter whatsoever;

18 "the revised edition" means the revised edition of Federal enactments to be
19 prepared under the authority of this Act;

20 "subsidiary instrument" means any order, rules, regulations, notices, rules of
21 court or bye-laws;

22 "State" means a State as provided under Section 318 of the Constitution of the
23 Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

Citation

24 11. This Bill may be cited as the Revised Edition (Laws of the
25 Federation of Nigeria) Bill, 2017.

26 SCHEDULE

27 *Section 4*

28 POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

29 1. The Committee shall have power to:

30 (a) omit all enactments which have:

(i) been expressly and specifically repealed;

(ii) expired or have become spent; or

(iii) had their full effect.

(b) omit all repealing enactments contained in Acts and also all tables and lists of repealed enactments, whether contained in Schedules or otherwise;

(c) omit all preambles to Acts where such omissions can, in the opinion of the Committee, conveniently be made;

(d) omit all enacting clauses;

(e) omit all enactments prescribing the date when an Act or part of an Act is to come into operation, where such omission can, in the opinion of the Committee, conveniently be made;

(f) omit all amending enactments or parts thereof where the amendments effected thereby have been embodied by the Committee in the Act to which they relate;

(g) consolidate into one enactment any two or more enactments which are in pari materia making any alteration necessary thereto and affixing such date thereto as may seem most convergent;

(h) alter the order of any section of any enactment, and in all cases, where it may appear to be necessary to re-number any section;

(i) alter the form or arrangement of any section of any enactment by transferring words, by combining any such section in whole or in part with another section or other sections or by dividing it into two or more subsections;

(j) divide enactments whether consolidated or not, into Parts or Divisions;

(k) transfer any provision contained in an enactment from the enactment to any other enactment to which the Committee considers that it more properly belongs;

(l) arrange the enactments, whether consolidated or not, in any

- 1 sequence or group that may be convenient;
- 2 (m) add a title to any enactment which may require it and alter the title
- 3 or short title of any enactment;
- 4 (n) supply or alter marginal notes;
- 5 (o) supply or alter tables of contents;
- 6 (p) correct cross-references;
- 7 (q) shorten and simplify the phraseology of any enactment;
- 8 (r) correct grammatical and typographical errors in any enactment
- 9 and for that purpose make verbal additions, omissions or alterations not
- 10 affecting the meaning of any enactment;
- 11 (s) make such formal alterations as to names, localities, offices and
- 12 otherwise as may be necessary to bring any enactment into conformity with the
- 13 circumstances of any part of the Federation;
- 14 (t) make such adaptations of or amendments to any enactment as may
- 15 appear to be necessary or proper as a consequence of any change in the
- 16 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999; and
- 17 (u) do all things relating to form and method which appear to the
- 18 Committee necessary for the perfecting of the revised edition.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to provide for periodic revision of the Laws of the Federation and the establishment of the Law Revision Committee charged with the responsibility to revise and update the laws as well as provide for the powers of the Committee and for matters connected therewith.