

CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999
(FOURTH ALTERATION, NO. 8) BILL, 2019

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section:

1. Alteration of the Constitution, 1999
2. Alteration of section 4
3. Substitution for section 5
4. Alteration of section 67
5. Alteration of section 68
6. Alteration of section 93
7. Alteration of section 109
8. Citation

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE IMMUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE IN RESPECT OF WORDS SPOKEN OR WRITTEN AT PLENARY SESSIONS OR COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS AND INSTITUTIONALISE LEGISLATIVE BUREAUCRACY IN THE CONSTITUTION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Senator Ike Ekweremadu

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

1 1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Cap.
2 C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the
3 Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.

Alteration of the
Constitution, 1999

4 2. Section 4 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting, after
5 subsection (7), a new subsection "(7A)"-

Alteration of
Section 4

6 "(7A) In the course of exercising the legislative powers, no civil or
7 criminal proceedings shall be instituted against a member of a legislative
8 House in respect of words spoken or written before the House or a
9 Committee thereof."

10 3. Substitute for section 51 of the Principal Act, a new section
11 "51"-

Substitution for
Section 51

12 *"Establishment of the National Assembly Service Commission*

13 51. (1) There is established the National Assembly Service
14 Commission whose composition, tenure, structure, finance, functions and
15 powers shall be as prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

16 (2) There shall be the Clerk to the National Assembly and such
17 other staff as may be required.

	1	(3) The method of appointment of the Clerk and such other staff of the
	2	National Assembly shall be as prescribed by the Commission"
Alteration of Section 67	3	4. Section 67 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for
	4	subsection (1), a new subsection "(1)"-
	5	"(1) The President -
	6	(a) shall attend a joint session of the National Assembly on any
	7	legislative day immediately after the commencement of each Legislative year
	8	to deliver an address in respect of the State of the Nation; and
	9	(b) may attend any joint session of the National Assembly, either to
	10	deliver an address on national affairs including fiscal measures, or to make
	11	such statement on the policy of government as he considers to be of national
	12	importance."
Alteration of Section 68	13	5. Section 68 (1) (e) of the Principal Act is altered by inserting, after
	14	the word, "Law", in line 3, the words, "except by virtue of office".
Substitution for Section 93	15	6. Substitute for section 93 of the Principal Act, a new section "93"-
	16	<i>"Establishment of the State House of Assembly Service Commission"</i>
	17	93. (1) There is established a State House of Assembly Service
	18	Commission whose composition, tenure, structure, finance, functions and
	19	powers shall be as prescribed by a Law of the House of Assembly of the State.
	20	(2) There shall be the Clerk to the State House of Assembly and such
	21	other staff as may be required.
	22	(3) The method of appointment of the Clerk and such other staff of the
	23	State House of Assembly, shall be as prescribed by the Commission".
Alteration of Section 109	24	7. Section 109(1) (e) of the Constitution is altered by inserting, after
	25	the word, "law", in line 3, the words, "except by virtue of office".
Citation	26	8. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic
	27	of Nigeria, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 8) Bill, 2019.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill alters the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide immunity for members of the legislature in respect of words spoken or written at plenary sessions or at Committee proceedings and institutionalise legislative bureaucracy in the Constitution.

