

HB. 899

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER SECTIONS 77 AND 117 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 [AS AMENDED] TO PROVIDE FOR DIASPORA VOTING; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution / Principal Act	Provision of the Bill	Committee Recommendation	Remarks
		Enacted by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria		
		Clause 1 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (hereinafter referred to as “the Principal Act”) is hereby amended as set out below:		
Section 77 (2)	Direct Election and Franchise (2) Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years residing in Nigeria at the time of the registration of voters for purposes of election to a legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election.	Clause 2 (a) Substituting in line 2, the word ‘in’, immediately after the word ‘residing’, with the phrase ‘within or outside’ immediately before the word ‘Nigeria’ with the amended Subsection (2) now reading thus - “(2) Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years residing within or outside Nigeria at the time of registration of voters for purposes of election to a Legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election.” (a) A new Subsection 3 will also be added thus – “(3) To be eligible to vote in accordance with Subsection 2 above, the citizen of		

		Nigeria must fulfill the following conditions: i) be at least 18 years old; ii) hold a valid Nigerian International Passport; iii) must have lived in Nigeria for a period of at least five (5) years from a minimum age of ten (10) years old; and iv) be legally resident in any Foreign Country from where the person seeks to vote in the Nigeria election for at least 12 months.”		
Section 117 (2)	Direct Election and Franchise (2) Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years residing in Nigeria at the time of the registration of voters for purposes of election to any legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election	Clause 3 1. Section 117 Subsection (2) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by – (a) Substituting in line 2, the word ‘in’, immediately after the word ‘residing’, with the phrase ‘within or outside’ immediately before the word ‘Nigeria’ with the amended Sub-section (2) now reading thus - “(2) Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years residing within or outside Nigeria at the time of registration of voters for purposes of election to a Legislative house, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election.” (b) A new Subsection 3 will also		

		be added thus – “(3) To be eligible to vote in accordance with Subsection 2 above, the citizen of Nigeria must fulfill the following conditions: i) be at least 18 years old; ii) hold a valid Nigerian International Passport; iii) must have lived in Nigeria for a period of at least five (5) years from a minimum age of ten (10) years old; and iv) be legally resident in the Country of residence for at least 12 months.”		
		Citation This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Fifth Alteration) Bill, 2020.		
		Explanatory Memorandum This bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap.c23 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to provide for diaspora voting		

