



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA, 1999
(FIFTH ALTERATION) BILL, NO. 58, 2022**

A BILL
FOR
AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR
INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY IN PRESIDENTIAL, GOVERNORSHIP,
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT COUNCILS ELECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED
MATTERS

FIRST READING

TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2019

SECOND READING

TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2019

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 2022

CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999
(FIFTH ALTERATION) BILL, NO. 58, 2022



Arrangement of Clauses

Clause

1. Alteration of Constitution.
2. Alteration of section 7
3. Alteration of section 65
4. Alteration of section 106
5. Alteration of section 131
6. Alteration of Section 177
7. Alteration of Section 228
8. Citation

A BILL
FOR
AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY IN
PRESIDENTIAL, GOVERNORSHIP, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, STATE HOUSES OF
ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS ELECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED
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{ } Commencement.

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows-

1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is altered as set out in this Bill. Alteration of Constitution.

2. Section 7 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (4), a new subsection “(4A)” - Alteration of section 7
“(4A) In the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of all the electoral wards in the respective local government area, for a Chairmanship candidate, and signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of all the polling units in the respective electoral wards for a councillor:
Provided that-
(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and
(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body”

3. Section 65 of the Principal Act is further altered— Alteration of section 65
(a) in subsection (2) (b), by inserting after the last word, “party”, the words, “or the person is an independent candidate”;
(b) by inserting after paragraph (b), a new paragraph “(c)” -
“(c) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of the local government areas in the respective Senatorial District or Federal Constituency, as the case may be:
Provided that-
“(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and
(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body”

4. Section 106 of the Principal Act is further altered by: - Alteration of section 106
(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, “party”, the words, “or the person is an independent candidate”;

(b) inserting, after paragraph (d), a new paragraph “(e)” —

“(e) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of the wards in the State Constituency:

Provided that-

(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and

(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body”

5. Section 131 of the Principal Act is further altered by: -

Alteration of
section 131

(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, “party”, the words, “or the person is an independent candidate”;

(b) inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph “(cc)” —

“(cc) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each State of the Federation:

Provided that-

(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and

(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body”

6. Section 177 of the Principal Act is further altered by-

Alteration of
Section 177

(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, “party”, the words, “or the person is an independent candidate”;

(b) inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph “(cc)” —

“(cc) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of the local government areas in the State:

Provided that-

(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and

(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body”

7. Section 228 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph “(cc)”-

Alteration of
Section 228

“(cc) for the conferment on the Commission of power by regulations to prescribe the payment of such administrative fees by independent candidates for respective elections:

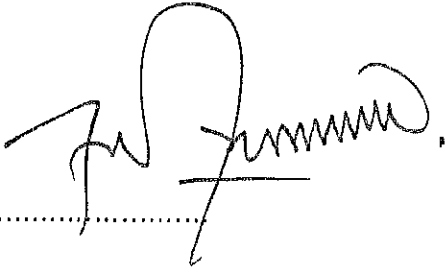
Provided that the Independent National Electoral Commission shall waive fifty percent of the administrative fees for women candidates.”

8. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Fifth Alteration) Bill No. Citation 58, 2022.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

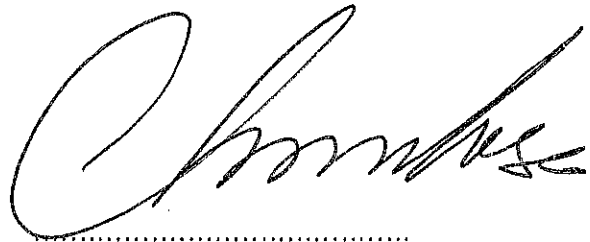
This Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to allow an independent candidate contest for an elective position.

THIS BILL WAS ALTERED BY THE SENATE ON TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 2022



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President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



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Clerk,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria