[SB. 335] C 895

ABILL

FOR

AN ACT TO FURTHER ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 (AS AMENDED) TO PROVIDE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS TO THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, SENATOR, MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBER, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS/AREA COUNCILS OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, 2020

Sponsored by Senator Stella Oduah

Commencement ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria-Amendment of 1 1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as the Constitution of the Federal Amended (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act") is altered as set out 2 Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) 3 in this Bill. 4 2. Section 7(4) is altered by inserting before the first word "the"," Amendment of Section 7(4) subject to the provisions of section 106 of this Constitution". 5 3. Section 7 is altered by inserting immediately after sub section 6 New Section 7(5) 7 (4) a new sub section (5) while the existing sub section (5) becomes subsection (6), etc. to wit "in the case of an independent candidate, he has 8 9 obtained the signatures of 50 registered voters from each of all electoral 10 wards in the respective Local Government Area, for a Chairmanship candidate and signatures of 20 registered voters from each of all the polling 11 units in the respective electoral wards, for a councillor." 12 4. Section 65(2)(b) is altered by inserting after the last word 13 Amendment of Section 65(2)(b) 14 "party", "or he is an independent candidate".

New Section 65(2)(c)	1	5. Section 65(2) is altered by inserting immediately after sub clause
	2	(2) (b) a new sub clause (c) "in the case of an independent candidate, he has
	3	obtained the signatures of 100 registered voters from each of all the State
	4	House of Assembly constituencies in the respective Senatorial Zone, for a
	5	Senatorial candidate and the signatures of 50 registered voters from each of all
	6	electoral wards in the respective Federal Constituency, for a House of
	7	Representatives candidate."
Amendment of Section 106(d)	8	6. Section 106(d) is altered by inserting after the last word "party" I
	9	"or he is an independent candidate".
New Section 106(e)	10	7. Section 106 is altered by inserting immediately after sub clause (d)
	11	a new sub clause (e) "in the case of an independent candidate, he has obtained
	12	the signatures of 50 registered voters from each of all electoral wards in the
	13	respective State House Assembly Constituency.
Amendment of Section 131(c)	14	8. Section 131(c) is altered by inserting after the last word "party" I
	15	"or he is an independent candidate".
New Section 131(d)	16	9. Section 131 is altered by inserting immediately after sub clause (c)
	17	a new sub clause (d) "in the case of an independent candidate, he has obtained
	18	the signatures of 100 registered voters from each of all the federal
	19	constituencies in Nigeria.
Amendment of Section 171(c)	20	10. Section 177(c) is altered by inserting after the last word "party" I
	21	"or he is an independent candidate".
New Section 171(d)	22	11. Section 177 is altered by inserting immediately after sub clause
	23	(c) a new sub clause (d) while the existing sub section (d) becomes subsection
	24	(e), etc. to wit "in the case of an independent candidate, he has obtained the
	25	signatures of 50 registered voters from each of all electoral wards in the
	26	respective State.
New Section 171(e)	27	12. Section 228 is altered by inserting a new paragraph "(e)" "for
	28	procedures, guidelines and qualifications for access to the ballot by political
	29	parties and independent candidates".

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13	. A new section 318 is created "subject to the provisions of this	New Section 318	
constitution	n, the Independent National Electoral Commission shall, by		
regulations	, prescribe the payment of such administrative fees by		
independer	t candidates for respective elections, providing that the		
Commissio	n shall make a waiver of 50% of the respective fees for all		
women candidates".			
14	. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution (Alteration) Bill,	Citation	
2020.			

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for independent candidates to various elective positions in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended and other conditions that must be met by each person who seeks to contest as an independent candidate.