

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT 2022 TO GRANT POWERS TO THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) TO CONDUCT PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL DEBATES FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION INTO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR OF A STATE RESPECTIVELY, TO PROVIDE THAT THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) SHALL CARRYOUT ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS OF AN ELECTION AS SOON AS THE RESULTS ARE DECLARED BY THE APPROPRIATE RETURNING OFFICER AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere

[] Commencement

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

- 1 **1.** The Electoral Act 2022 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act"), is amended as set out in this Bill. Amendment of the Electoral Act 2022
- 2
- 3 **2.** The Principal Act is amended by inserting a new section 24 Insertion of a new section 24
- 4 before the extant section 24 and renumbering as follows:
- 5 (1) The Commission shall cause a Presidential and Gubernatorial
- 6 Debate to be conducted for persons seeking for election into the offices of
- 7 President and Governor of a State respectively, on a date to be appointed by
- 8 the Commission.
- 9 (2) A person seeking for election to the office of President of the
- 10 Federal Republic of Nigeria, shall be required to participate in the
- 11 Presidential Debates wherein he shall provide a detailed analysis of his
- 12 manifesto and the plans he intends to carryout if elected as President of the
- 13 Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- 14 (3) A person for election to the office of Governor of a State shall be

1 required to participate in the Gubernatorial Debates, wherein he shall provide a
2 detailed analysis of his manifesto and the plans he intends to carryout if elected
3 as Governor of the State.

Amendment of
section 62

4 **3.** Section 62 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new
5 subsection (1) before the extant subsection 1 and altering subsections 2 and 3 as
6 follows:

7 62.(1) After the recording and announcement of the result, the
8 presiding officer shall immediately transmit, and upload the result so recorded
9 and announced into the website, dashboard, server, or portal, whichever is
10 applicable, of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
11 electronically. Before doing so, the polling agents of the candidates at an
12 election shall be required to certify that the results to be transmitted and
13 uploaded are the true and correct results of the votes as already recorded and
14 announced.

15 (2) After the recording, announcement, transmission and uploading
16 of the result, the presiding officer shall deliver same along with election
17 materials under security and accompanied by the candidates or their polling
18 agents, where available, to such person as may be prescribed by the
19 Commission.

20 (3) The Commission shall compile, maintain and update, on a
21 continuous basis, a register of election results to be known as the National
22 Electronic Register of Election Results which shall be a distinct database or
23 repository of polling unit by polling unit results, including collated election
24 results, of each election conducted by the Commission in the Federation, and
25 the Register of Election Results shall be kept in electronic format by the
26 Commission at its national headquarters and shall be stored on its website,
27 dashboard, server, or portal, whichever is applicable.

28 (4) Any person or political party may obtain from the Commission, on
29 payment of such fees as may be determined by the Commission, a certified true
30 copy of any election result kept in the National Electronic Register of Election

1 Results for a State, Local Government, Area Council, registration area or
2 Electoral Ward or Polling Unit, as the case may be, and the certified true
3 copy shall be in printed and electronic format.

4 **4.** Section 68 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

Amendment of
section 68

5 (1) The Commission shall cause to be posted on its notice board,
6 dashboard, website, server, or portal, whichever is applicable, a notice
7 showing the candidates at the election and their scores, and the person
8 declared as elected or returned at the election.

9 (2) The notice showing the candidates at the election and their
10 scores, and the person declared as elected or returned at the election, as
11 provided in subsection 1 of this section shall be posted on the Commission's
12 notice board, dashboard, website, server, or portal, as the case maybe,
13 contemporaneously.

14 **5.** This Bill may be cited as Electoral Act 2022 (Amendment) Bill,
15 2024.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Electoral Act 2022 to mandate the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to grant powers to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct Presidential and Gubernatorial Debates for candidates seeking election into the office of President and Governor of a State respectively, to provide that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shall carryout electronic transmission of results of an election as soon as the results are declared by the appropriate returning officer.