

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE FUNCTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE SECURITY DIRECTORATE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATION AND CONDITION OF SERVICE OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE DIRECTORATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2024

Sponsored by Hon. Rotimi Akintunde

[] Commencement

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

1 **1.**-(1) There is established for the National Assembly a Directorate
2 of Legislative Security Service (hereinafter referred to as "the Directorate").

Establishment
of the Directorate
of Legislative
Security Service

3 (2) The Directorate shall comprise of such departments, divisions
4 and units as is prescribed in the Schedule to this Bill.

5 **2.**-(1) The function of the Directorate shall include:

Functions and
Powers of the
Directorate

6 (a) ensuring the safety and security of lives and property in the
7 National Assembly complex and its precincts,

8 (b) providing physical security and protection to lawmakers, staff,
9 and visitors in the National Assembly complex and its precincts,

10 (c) managing access to the two Chambers of the National
11 Assembly and controlling entry to the National Assembly complex and its
12 precincts,

13 (d) conducting threats and risk assessments to identify potential
14 threats to the security and safety of the National Assembly complex and its
15 precincts, and taking appropriate actions to address them,

16 (e) responding to emergencies such as, active shooters, bomb
17 threats, fire and other security incidents,

18 (f) managing public order and demonstration in the National

1 Assembly complex and its precincts,
2 (g) working closely with other security and intelligence agencies to
3 share information and intelligence relating to any threat or risk in the National
4 Assembly complex and its precincts,
5 (h) maintaining order in plenary, meetings and other parliamentary
6 events as may be directed by the Presiding Officers or Committee Chairmen,
7 (i) enforcing the directive of the two Chambers, rules and regulations
8 relating to security, and code of conduct of the two Chambers respectfully,
9 (j) supervising and coordinating other security and intelligence
10 personnel deployed in the National Assembly Complex and its precincts,
11 (k) managing the National Assembly armoury,
12 (l) performing any other function as may prescribed by the Standing
13 Orders of the two Chambers or as may be directed by the Presiding Officers or
14 the Clerk to the National Assembly.

Head of the
Sergeant-At-Arms
and Staff of the
Directorate

15 3.-(1) The Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall enjoy the same status
16 as a Secretary in the National Assembly Service and shall be the head of the
17 Directorate and responsible to the Clerk to the National Assembly for the day-
18 to-day activities of the Directorate.

19 (2) There shall be appointed to assist the Head of the Sergeant-At-
20 Arms such other personnel as may be determined by the National Assembly
21 Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") on the
22 recommendation of the Clerk to the National Assembly.

Qualification
for Appointment
as Head of the
Sergeant-At-Arms

23 4.-(1) The Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall be appointed by the
24 Commission on the recommendation of the Clerk to the National Assembly

25 (2) A person is eligible for appointment as Sergeant-At-Arms, if the
26 person:

27 (a) is certified physically and mentally fit by a government hospital

28 (b) possesses a minimum of 1st degree or its equivalent obtained from
29 a recognised institution,

30 (c) has served in the National Assembly Service for a minimum of 15

1 years and attained the status of at least a Deputy Director,
2 (d) has not been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty or fraud
3 in the preceding 10 years, or
4 (e) has not been indicted for indiscipline or incompetence by the
5 National Assembly Service Commission or any Government establishment.

6 **5.-(1)** The Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall serve for 4 years
7 subject to renewal for another 4 years and no more. Tenure of the
Head of the
Sergeant-At-Arms

8 (2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1), the Head of
9 the Sergeant-At-Arms shall cease to hold office on attainment of 60 years of
10 age or 35 years in service, or whichever comes first.

11 **6.-(1)** Notwithstanding the provision of this Bill, the Head of the
12 Sergeant- At-Arms shall cease to hold office if he or she: Cessation of office
of the Head of the
Sergeant-Ar-Arms

13 (a) becomes physically and mentally unfit,
14 (b) becomes bankrupt or makes compromises with his or her
15 creditors,
16 (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving fraud
17 dishonesty, or
18 (d) is guilty of corrupt practices or misconduct in relation to his or
19 her duties.

20 **7.-(1)** The Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms and the staff of the
21 Directorate shall be staff of the National Assembly Service. Conditions of
Service

22 (2) Except otherwise stated by this Bill, the Conditions of Service
23 applicable to the staff of the National Assembly Service shall be applicable
24 to the Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms and the staff of the Directorate.

25 (2) If the Condition of Service applicable to National Assembly
26 staff is silence on any issue relating to the Conditions of Service of the Head
27 of the Sergeant-At-Arms and staff of the Directorate, the condition of
28 service applicable to the Nigeria Police Service shall be applicable to staff of
29 the Directorate.

Prohibition of Firearms and Ammunitions	1	8. (1) Notwithstanding the provision of any law, no person shall carry
	2	into or possess firearm in the National Assembly complex and its precincts.
	3	(2) Any person who is authorised by law to carry or possess firearms
	4	and ammunitions shall declare such firearms and ammunitions to the Sergeant-
	5	At-Arms at the point of entry into the National Assembly Complex and its
	6	precincts.
	7	(3) Any person that contravenes the provisions of this Section
	8	commits an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not
	9	exceeding 2 years.
Possessing of Firearms and Ammunitions by Sergeant-At-Arms	10	9. The Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms and other staff of the
	11	Directorate may possess or carry firearms and ammunitions within the
	12	National Assembly complex and its precincts subject to the approval of the
	13	President.
Use of Firearms and Ammunitions	14	10. Firearms and ammunitions should not be used in the precincts the
	15	National Assembly and its precincts except:
	16	(a) in self-defence or defence of against the imminent threat of death
	17	or serious injury,
	18	(b) to prevent the perpetration of a particularly serious crime
	19	involving grave threat to life,
	20	(c) to arrest a person presenting such a danger and resisting their
	21	authority, or to prevent his or her escape, and
	22	(d) only when less extreme means are insufficient to achieve these
	23	objectives.
Establishment of Armoury	24	11. The National Assembly may establish an armoury subject to the
	25	approval of the President.
Immunity and Privileges	26	12. Except otherwise stated in this Bill, in the performance of their
	27	functions, the Sergeant-At-Arms and staff of the Directorate shall enjoy similar
	28	powers, immunities and privileges as are applicable to members of the Nigeria
	29	Police Force.

1	13. -(1) The management of the National Assembly shall make	Powers to make Regulations
2	regulations subject to the approval by resolution of the two Chambers in	
3	order to realise the objectives of this Bill.	
4	(2) Any regulation made under Subsection (1) shall take effect on	
5	the day such regulation is published in the official Gazette.	
6	14. -(1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary to any other	Powers of the Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms
7	law, the Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall have power to initiate	
8	disciplinary proceedings over junior staff of the Directorate.	
9	(2) The Head of the Sergeant-At -Arms while exercising his or her	
10	disciplinary power, shall strictly adhere to the principle of fair hearing.	
11	(3) Subject to subsection (1), any recommendation made by the	
12	head of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall be subject to the approval of the Clerk to	
13	the National Assembly.	
14	15. Any person appointed or serving as the Sergeant-At-Arms or	Transition and Savings
15	other personnel appointed and serving as sergeant-At-Arms on the day this	
16	Bill comes into force, shall be deemed to have been appointed or serving	
17	under this Bill.	
18	16. In this Act:	Interpretation
19	"Ammunition" means ammunition for any firearm and any component part	
20	of any such ammunition, but does not include gun powder or trade powder	
21	not intended or used as such a component part;	
22	"Armoury" means a place or building established or recognised as an	
23	armoury in accordance with Section 13 of the Firearms Act LN 32 of 1959;	
24	"Conditions of Service" means the laws, rules, regulations, orders and other	
25	instruments that regulate the terms of service relating to his tenure of office,	
26	disciplinary control, salary (including salary scales), pensionable	
27	allowances and passages;	
28	"Commission" unless otherwise stated in this Bill, means the National	
29	Assembly Service Commission;	
30	"Firearms" means any lethal barrel weapon of any description from which	

1 any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged; and includes a prohibited
2 firearm, a personal firearm and a muzzle-loading firearm of any of the
3 categories referred to in parts I, II and III respectively of the Schedule to the
4 Firearms Act LN 32 of 1959, and any component of any such firearm;

5 "First Degree or its equivalent" means BSc or HND respectively;

6 "National Assembly Complex" means the entire physical premises of the
7 National Assembly grounds in the Three Arms Zone, in the Federal Capital
8 Territory, and the National Assembly liaison office in Lagos;

9 "National Assembly Precinct" means the National Assembly Complex and the
10 immediate environment, the official residences and guest houses of the
11 Presiding Officers and Clerk to the National Assembly; and

12 "President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Citation

13 **17.** This Bill may be cited as the National Assembly Security Bill,
14 2024 .

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 1(1)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE DIRECTORATE

(A) Departments:

(a) Office of the Head of the Sergeant-At-Arms,

(b) Sergeant-At-Arms Senate, and

(c) Sergeant-At-Arms House of Representative.

(B) Divisions:

(a) Protective Operation,

(b) Intelligent and Risk Assessment,

(c) Communication and Technology,

(d) Explosive Detection and Canine,

(e) Personnel Security Screening,

(f) Counter Terrorism, and

(g) Chamber Duties, and

(C) Any other Department, Division or unit that may be created by the Commission on the Recommendation of the Clerk to the National Assembly.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment and the functions Legislative Security Directorate in the National Assembly; to provide for the qualification and condition of service of the Sergeant-At-Arms and other personnel of the Directorate.