

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, CAP P35, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO STRENGTHEN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS, MODERNIZE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS, UPGRADE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ENHANCE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Paul Nnamchi

Co-Sponsors:

Hon. Julius Aihonvbere

Hon. Ahmed Doro

Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji

[] Commencement

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

- 1 **1.** The Public Health Act, Cap P35, Laws of the Federation of
2 Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as
3 set out hereunder. Amendment of
Cap. P35, LFN,
2004
- 4 **2.** Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the Amendment of
Section 1
(Interpretation
Clause)
5 following new definitions in appropriate alphabetical order:
6 (a) "Communicable disease" means any disease capable of
7 transmission from one person or animal to another by direct or indirect
8 means;
9 (b) "Pandemic" means an epidemic occurring over a wide
10 geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the
11 population;
12 (c) "Health Information System (HIS)" means a digital system that
13 collects, stores, analyzes, and disseminates health data for planning,
14 monitoring, and public health response;

1 (d) Inter-agency collaboration" refers to the formal coordination and
 2 cooperation between two or more governmental agencies at federal, state, or
 3 local levels to implement unified public health responses.

Insertion of New
 Part IVA - Pandemic
 Preparedness
 and Emergency
 Response
 Framework

4 **3. I3A. Establishment of National Pandemic Preparedness and**
 5 **Response Framework**

6 (1) There shall be established a National Pandemic Preparedness and
 7 Response Framework (NPPRF) under the Federal Ministry of Health, which
 8 shall:

9 (a) Formulate national preparedness strategies for emerging and re-
 10 emerging infectious diseases;

11 (b) Develop periodic pandemic simulation drills;

12 (c) Coordinate national stockpiling of essential medical supplies,
 13 vaccines, and personal protective equipment.

14 (2) The Framework shall be reviewed every five years or as may be
 15 required by emerging global health trends.

Insertion of New
 3B - Inter-agency
 Health Emergency
 Council

16 **4.-(1) There is hereby established the Inter-agency Health Emergency**
 17 **Council (IHEC) comprising:**

18 (a) Federal Ministry of Health (Chair);

19 (b) Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC);

20 (c) National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
 21 (NAFDAC);

22 (d) Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS);

23 (e) Nigerian Customs Service;

24 (f) Nigerian Police Force;

25 (g) Armed Forces of Nigeria;

26 (h) One representative each from the National Assembly Committees
 27 on Health.

28 (2) The Council shall be responsible for:

29 (a) Coordinated national response during health emergencies;

30 (b) Sharing of intelligence and data during outbreaks;

1	(c) Mobilization of rapid response teams.	
2	5. Section 4 is amended to:	Amendment of
3	(a) Replace "infectious disease" with "notifiable communicable	Part 11 - Notification
4	disease" throughout;	of Infections
5	(b) Include provisions for electronic reporting and surveillance;	Diseases
6	(c) Mandate timely dissemination of outbreak alerts using digital	
7	platforms.	
8	6.-(1) All primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare institutions	Insertion of New
9	shall adopt electronic health information systems that integrate with	Section 4A - Health
10	national surveillance platforms.	Data Systems
11	(2) The Federal Ministry of Health shall:	
12	(a) Develop and maintain a centralized national digital health	
13	registry;	
14	(b) Ensure interoperability with state-level systems;	
15	(c) Guarantee data protection in accordance with national privacy	
16	laws.	
17	7.-(1) All references to "leprosy," "lunatic," "alien," or other	Amendment of
18	outdated terminologies shall be replaced with contemporary, rights-	Language in
19	respecting language such as:	Principal Act
20	(a) "Hansen's Disease" for leprosy;	
21	(b) "Person with mental health condition" for lunatic;	
22	(c) "Foreigner or migrant" for alien.	
23	8. All actions, rules, or regulations undertaken under the Principal	Transitional and
24	Act prior to this amendment shall remain valid, provided they are not	Savings Provisions
25	inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.	
26	9. This Bill may be cited as the Public Health (Amendment) Act,	Citation
27	2025.	

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to modernize the Public Health Act, Cap P35, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, by incorporating frameworks for pandemic preparedness, digital health infrastructure, inter-agency coordination, and the replacement of obsolete language in line with global public health best practices.