

A Comparative Analysis of the Interplay of Administrative and Political Structures of the Legislature in the Legislative Procedures¹ of Selected Federal Systems

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ABSTRACT In all democracies, the legislature has the primary function of law making amongst other responsibilities. In the law-making or legislative process, there is the interplay between the political and administrative structures of the legislature. However, little or no attention has been paid to the influence of this interplay on the legislative process in the extant literature. Thus, using three federal political systems; Nigeria, Brazil and the United States as case studies, the present paper aims at the analysis of the impacts of the interplay of political and administrative structures of the legislature on their legislative processes. Comparing these systems brought to the fore the similarities and differences inherent in their legislative procedures and from the findings of the analysis, some policy lessons were drawn for Nigeria in particular. These among others, included the need for a constitutional amendment in Nigeria to restructure the unwieldy size of the Federal legislature and the development of political systems that are indigenous to its historical and socio-political milieu.