

BILL NO 3**Explanatory Memorandum**

Currently, in accordance with the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the Constitution), Chapter I, Section 5 (1), the diocesan synods elect representatives and supplementals to the General Synod for a period of three years commencing on 1st January following their election.

This results in a significant number of members of General Synod who, in this capacity, serve as members of committees, being ineligible to continue their work as members of those committees from 1 January in an election year.

It is proposed to amend Chapter I, Section 5 (1) of the Constitution to state that newly elected members of General Synod will assume their office on the day preceding the next ordinary session of the General Synod. Therefore existing Synod members will be eligible to continue their committee work until the day before the next ordinary session of the General Synod.

MRS EE HARKNESS
VEN REB WHITE

BILL**To amend Chapter I of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable, to enable those members of Church of Ireland committees who serve on such committees by virtue of their membership of General Synod to continue their committee work until the day preceding the next ordinary session of the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2011 and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. In this Statute 'Chapter I' means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In this Statute 'the Constitution of the Standing Committee' means The Constitution, Duties and Powers of the Standing Committee as provided by the resolution of the General Synod dated the 9th May 1967, as amended 1972, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1989, 1992, 1996 and 2009.
3. In Section 5 (1) of Chapter I for '1st January' there shall be substituted 'the day preceding the next ordinary session of the General Synod'.

4. In the Constitution of the Standing Committee Sections 5 (3) 1 and 5 (3) 2 shall be replaced with the following:
- 5 (3) The vacancies so caused shall be filled by election by postal ballot in accordance with the following rules, the clerical representatives-elect of each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the clerical members for that diocese, and the lay representatives-elect of each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the lay members for that diocese:
1. The Honorary Secretaries shall, not later than six weeks before the first ordinary session of each General Synod, send to each member-elect of the House of Representatives a copy of these rules.
 2. (1) Each clerical member-elect may nominate
 - (a) a clerical member-elect for the diocese who is forty-five* years or over on the first day of the next ordinary session of the General Synod; and
 - (b) a clerical member-elect for the diocese who is under forty-five* years on such date.
 - (2) Each lay member-elect may nominate
 - (a) a lay member-elect for the diocese who is forty-five* years or over on the first day of the next ordinary session of the General Synod; and
 - (b) a lay member-elect for the diocese who is under forty-five* years on such date.
 - (3) Nominations shall be in writing, shall indicate that the consent of each person being nominated has been obtained, shall be signed by the member-elect making the nomination and countersigned by the member-elect being nominated, and shall be sent to the Honorary Secretaries so as to reach them not later than three weeks before the first day of the next ordinary session of the General Synod.

* In the case of any diocese where the Standing Committee has so directed, for "forty-five" read "fifty-five".