

**Bill No 7**

**Explanatory Memorandum**

The Library and Archives Committee of the Representative Church Body has expressed concern at the fact that there is presently no requirement for important committees to keep written records of their proceedings.

The proposed bill will (if passed) mandate diocesan synods to make regulations relating to the keeping of written records of its own proceedings and the proceedings of diocesan councils, general vestries, select vestries, boards of nomination and cathedral chapters within the diocese and for the authentication and safe keeping of those records.

The bill would further require the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral to make its own regulations as regards the keeping, authentication and safe keeping of its own records.

VEN ROBIN BANTRY WHITE  
THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter II and Chapter VII of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable that written records be kept of the proceedings of diocesan synods, diocesan councils, general vestries, select vestries, boards of nomination and cathedral chapters;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin similarly keeps records of its proceedings;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to amend Chapter II and Chapter VII 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 2013, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this statute, 'Chapter II' means Chapter II of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and 'Chapter VII' means Chapter VII of the said Constitution.
2. In Chapter II, immediately after Section 31, there shall be inserted the following section:

**31A** (1) The diocesan synod shall make regulations for the recording of its proceedings and for the safe keeping of those records. Such records shall be in writing and signed by the president of the synod.

(2) The diocesan synod shall also make regulations for the maintenance of written records of the proceedings of diocesan councils, general vestries, select vestries, boards of nomination and cathedral chapters in its diocese and for the authentication and safekeeping of such records.

3. In Chapter VII, immediately after Section 36, there shall be inserted the following section:

**36A** The Chapter shall make regulations for the maintenance of written records of its proceedings and for the safekeeping of those records. Such records shall be in writing and signed by the Dean or the person who presided over the meeting in the Dean's absence.