

Bill No 8**Explanatory Memorandum**

At present, it is possible for dioceses to automatically re-nominate outgoing members of the General Synod. In some dioceses, outgoing members of the General Synod are deemed automatically re-nominated unless the person expresses a desire to step down. Those who are not members of the General Synod normally need to be formally nominated by one or more diocesan synod members.

The Hard Gospel Implementation Group feels that the practice of automatically re-nominating outgoing members of the General Synod discourages some who are currently not members of General Synod from getting involved and these include many who are currently under-represented in the General Synod including younger people and women.

The bill will (if passed) prevent outgoing members of the General Synod from being nominated automatically and will require diocesan synods to apply the same rules for nominating non-members of General Synod as current members.

MRS ETHNE HARKNESS
REV ANDREW FORSTER

BILL

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that the same nomination procedures be applied to outgoing members of the General Synod as to persons who are not members of the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS to accomplish this it is appropriate 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 2013, 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 Chapter I, immediately after Section 5 (3), there shall be inserted the following subsection:
 - (4) No diocesan synod shall make provision whereby nomination procedures applied to outgoing members of the General Synod differ from those applied to persons who are not outgoing members of the General Synod.