

Bill No. 6**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 1999, the General Synod by statute made it possible, in certain circumstances, for members of the clergy to serve in part-time stipendiary deployment. However, they were required to have already served for at least three years in full-time ministry. The effect of this provision was that persons could not be ordained in the context of nomination to a part-time post.

The present Bill seeks, in the light of experience, to delete the three-year restriction. A number of persons have trained for ordination, often on a part-time basis, and have obtained the MTh degree. They aspire to continue to serve, at least initially, in a part-time situation as priests but are precluded from doing so under the present arrangements. They must make a choice either to serve full-time or in a completely non-stipendiary capacity.

The present Bill aspires to remove this anomaly and is consonant with the spirit of flexibility and innovation that has surrounded training for ordained ministry in more recent years.

THE BISHOP OF CASHEL, FERNS AND OSSORY
VEN LESLIE STEVENSON

BILL

(at the request of the Commission on Ministry)

To amend Chapter IX of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable, in certain circumstances, to make provision for the admission into holy orders of persons who have been nominated to a post certified as suited to part-time deployment;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire, in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter IX” means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and “Canon 34” means Canon 34 of the Canons of the Church of Ireland as contained in Chapter IX.
2. In Paragraph 4 of Canon 34 (The occupations of clergy) the following words shall be deleted:

“who, for a period of not less than three years, has held ecclesiastical office or served as a curate assistant, and”.