

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A013
TITLE: Amending Rules 12(g) and 17 of the House of Deputies Rules of Order
PROPOSER: House of Deputies President's Council of Advice
COMMITTEE: Rules of Order

Directly Related: (attached)

None

Indirectly Related:

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

TOPIC/TITLE: Rules of Order: Amending Rules 12(g) and 17 of the House of Deputies Rules of Order

PROPOSER: House of Deputies President's Council of Advice

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1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 12(g) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
 2 (g) Except as provided herein, every Committee meeting shall be open to the public.
 3 However, the Chair may convene the Committee in conference, during which time the
 4 public may remain but may not participate in the Committee deliberations. Upon a two-
 5 thirds majority vote of Committee members present, a Committee may go into executive
 6 session if the matter to be considered in executive session has first been scheduled for
 7 hearing and heard in open session, and interested persons have been given an opportunity
 8 to be heard. *No legislative matter may be amended or otherwise voted on in executive*
 9 *session;*

10
 11 And be it further
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13 *Resolved*, that Rule of Order 17 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
 14 17. The provisions of Rules 12 and 13 shall not apply to Committees having procedural
 15 matters only, including, but not limited to, the Committee on Elections, Committee on
 16 Certification of Minutes, Committee on Dispatch of Business; Provided, however the
 17 meetings of such Committees shall be open to Bishops, Deputies, and Visitors, except
 18 that, on a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members present, the Committee may
 19 go into executive session *to discuss, but not vote on, an appropriate matter.*
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EXPLANATION:

The goal of the process is to ensure transparency and not permit actions to be taken in any kind of closed session. Where proceedings are purely procedural, such as Certification of Minutes or Dispatch of Business, the further goal is to facilitate getting their work done without undue distraction.