

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A070
TITLE: Amend Joint Rules of Order of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies
Rule III.12
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
COMMITTEE: Rules of Order

Directly Related: (attached)

1979-D067 Substitute Joint Rule III.12 [Proposals for Legislative Consideration]

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.



Resolution Number: 1979-D067
Title: Substitute Joint Rule III.12 [Proposals for Legislative Consideration]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That Joint Rule #12 of the Joint Rules of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies be stricken in its entirety, inserting instead the following Joint Rule #12:**

12. Each proposal for legislative consideration, however addressed to the General Convention or to either House thereof, received prior to a date in advance of the Convention agreed upon by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, shall be referred by mail to the proper Standing Committee or Special Committee of the appropriate House, the Presiding Bishop making the referrals to the Committees of the House of Bishops and the President of the House of Deputies making the referrals to the Committees of that House.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-66.

TOPIC/TITLE: Rules of Order: Amend Joint Rules of Order of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies Rule III.12

PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism

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1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Rule III.12 of the Joint Rules of Order of
 2 the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies is hereby amended to read as follows:
 3 Sec. 12. Each proposal for legislative consideration, however addressed to the General
 4 Convention or to either House thereof, received prior to a date in advance of the Convention
 5 agreed upon by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, shall be
 6 referred by mail to the proper Standing Committee or Special Committee of the appropriate
 7 House, the Presiding Bishop making the referrals to the Committees of the House of Bishops
 8 and the President of the House of Deputies making the referrals to the Committees of that
 9 House. *Each Standing Committee or Special Committee of each House shall, as its first order*
 10 *of business, rank its received proposals in priority sequence, as each committee so*
 11 *determines, and forward that list to the chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business of the*
 12 *appropriate House. No additional proposals for legislative consideration may be forwarded*
 13 *to either House until the top three priority proposals for legislative consideration of every*
 14 *Standing Committee or Special Committee of both Houses have been discharged, unless by*
 15 *joint agreement by the President of each House.*
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EXPLANATION:

General Convention Committees often operate under an enormous work load. Precious time together is sometimes dissipated on inconsequential Resolutions. Sometimes important Resolutions get lost. The proposed Resolution creates an opportunity to attend first to Resolutions with high missional and strategic impact. This will allow Committees to prioritize their work and make sure the most important Resolutions receive the attention they require. By slowing down the pace and increasing their focus, Committees can model good leadership, good process and self-care. We will not be able to make General Convention a time of celebration, service and outreach without agreed-upon mechanisms to reduce the legislative load.