

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A149  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.4-8 [Bishops Suffragan--Second Reading]  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons  
**Topic:** Bishops, Constitution--Second Reading

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A151 Amend Constitution Article II.4-8 [Bishops Suffragan--First Reading]  
2015-B011 Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Bishop Suffragan for Chaplains--First Reading]  
2012-D085 On the Topic of Amending the Constitution on Electing Bishops

### Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

1997-A089 Amend Constitution Articles I, II, and IV [Bishops Suffragan--First Reading]

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.*

# A149 - Amend Constitution Article II.4-8

## [Bishops Suffragan--Second Reading]

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** Yes

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 02 - Constitution & Canons

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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### Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

*Resolved*, That Article II.4-8 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

**<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

#### ARTICLE II

Sec. 4. It shall be lawful for a Diocese, at the request of the Bishop of that Diocese, to elect not more than two Bishops Suffragan, without right of succession, and with seat and vote in the House of Bishops. A Bishop Suffragan shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. A Bishop Suffragan shall be eligible for election as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of a Diocese, or as a Bishop Suffragan in another Diocese.

Sec. 5. It shall be lawful for a Diocese to prescribe by the Constitution and Canons of such Diocese that upon the death, removal or deposition of the Bishop or if the Bishop resigns, a Bishop Suffragan of that Diocese may be placed in charge of such Diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated; or that during the disability or absence of the Bishop, a Bishop Suffragan of that Diocese may be placed in charge of such diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

Sec. 6. A Bishop may not resign jurisdiction without the consent of the House of Bishops.

Sec. 7. It shall be lawful for the House of Bishops to elect a Bishop Suffragan who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of those chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions who are ordained Ministers of this Church. The Bishop Suffragan so elected shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. The Bishop Suffragan shall be eligible for election as Bishop Diocesan, or Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan of a Diocese.

Sec. 8. A Bishop Diocesan or Coadjutor who has served as the Bishop Diocesan or as the Bishop Coadjutor, of a Diocese for any period of time, may be elected as Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan of another Diocese only if five or more years have passed since the Bishop first served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese in which the Bishop is currently or last served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor. Before acceptance of such election a resignation of jurisdiction in the Diocese in which the Bishop is then serving, conditioned on the required consents of the Bishops and Standing Committees of the Church to such election, shall be submitted to the House of Bishops, and also, if the Bishop be a Bishop Coadjutor, a renunciation of the right of succession. Such resignation, and renunciation of the right of succession in the case of a Bishop Coadjutor, shall require the consent of the House of Bishops.

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**<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

ARTICLE II

Sec. 4. It shall be lawful for a Diocese, at the request of the Bishop of that Diocese, to elect not more than two ~~Suffragan~~ Bishops *Suffragan*, without right of succession, and with seat and vote in the House of Bishops. A ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. A ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be eligible for election as Bishop *Diocesan* or Bishop Coadjutor of a Diocese, or as a *Bishop Suffragan* in another Diocese.

Sec. 5. It shall be lawful for a Diocese to prescribe by the Constitution and Canons of such Diocese that upon the death, *removal or deposition* of the Bishop *or if the Bishop resigns*, a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of that Diocese may be placed in charge of such Diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated; or that during the disability or absence of the Bishop, a Bishop Suffragan of that Diocese may be placed in charge of such diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

Sec. 6. A Bishop may not resign jurisdiction without the consent of the House of Bishops.

Sec. 7. It shall be lawful for the House of Bishops to elect a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of those chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions who are ordained Ministers of this Church. The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* so elected shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be eligible for election as Bishop *Diocesan*, or Bishop Coadjutor or ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of a Diocese.

Sec. 8. A Bishop Diocesan or Coadjutor who ~~has for at least five years next preceding exercised jurisdiction as the Ordinary, served as the Bishop Diocesan or as the Bishop Coadjutor, of a Diocese for any period of time,~~ may be elected as Bishop *Diocesan*, Bishop Coadjutor, or ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of another Diocese *only if five or more years have passed since the Bishop first served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese in which the Bishop is currently or last served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor.* Before acceptance of such election a resignation of jurisdiction in the Diocese in which the Bishop is then serving, conditioned on the required consents of the Bishops and Standing Committees of the Church to such election, shall be submitted to the House of Bishops, and also, if the Bishop be a Bishop Coadjutor, a renunciation of the right of succession. Such resignation, and renunciation of the right of succession in the case of a Bishop Coadjutor, shall require the consent of the House of Bishops.

## **Explanation**

The amendments make the titles of bishops consistent throughout the Constitution and Canons. The amendment to Section 5 clarifies that a Bishop Suffragan may be placed in charge of a diocese and exercise jurisdiction as the Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore until a successor is consecrated if the Bishop Diocesan dies, resigns or is removed from office or until the Bishop Diocesan returns to office if the absence is temporary. The amendment to Section 8 clarifies that a total of five years of combined service, served consecutively, as Bishop Coadjutor and then Bishop Diocesan is required before the bishop may be elected elsewhere.





**Resolution Number:** 2018-A151  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.4-8 [Bishops Suffragan--First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article II.4-8 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**ARTICLE II**

**Sec. 4.** It shall be lawful for a Diocese, at the request of the Bishop of that Diocese, to elect not more than two ~~Suffragan~~ Bishops *Suffragan*, without right of succession, and with seat and vote in the House of Bishops. A ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. A ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be eligible for election as Bishop *Diocesan* or Bishop Coadjutor of a Diocese, or as a *Bishop Suffragan* in another Diocese.

**Sec. 5.** It shall be lawful for a Diocese to prescribe by the Constitution and Canons of such Diocese that upon the death, *removal or deposition* of the Bishop *or if the Bishop resigns*, a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of that Diocese may be ~~placed in charge of such Diocese and~~ become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated; or that during the disability or absence of the Bishop, a Bishop *Suffragan* of that Diocese may be placed in charge of such diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

**Sec. 6.** A Bishop may not resign jurisdiction without the consent of the House of Bishops.

**Sec. 7.** It shall be lawful for the House of Bishops to elect a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of those chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions who are ordained Ministers of this Church. The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* so elected shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* shall be eligible for election as Bishop *Diocesan*, ~~or~~ Bishop Coadjutor or ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of a Diocese.

**Sec. 8.** A Bishop *Diocesan* or Coadjutor who has ~~for at least five years next preceding exercised jurisdiction as the Ordinary~~, *served as the Bishop Diocesan* or as the Bishop Coadjutor, of a Diocese *for any period of time*, may be elected as Bishop *Diocesan*, Bishop Coadjutor, or ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of another Diocese *only if five or more years have passed since the Bishop first served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese in which the Bishop is currently or last served as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor. Before*

acceptance of such election a resignation of jurisdiction in the Diocese in which the Bishop is then serving, conditioned on the required consents of the Bishops and Standing Committees of the Church to such election, shall be submitted to the House of Bishops, and also, if the Bishop be a Bishop Coadjutor, a renunciation of the right of succession. Such resignation, and renunciation of the right of succession in the case of a Bishop Coadjutor, shall require the consent of the House of Bishops.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1124-1125.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-B011  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Bishop Suffragan for Chaplains--First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article II.7 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**Sec. 7. ~~It shall be lawful for t~~The House of Bishops ~~to~~may elect a Suffragan Bishop Suffragan who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of ~~those persons of this Church who serve as chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions who are ordained Ministers of this Church and such other agencies as may be specified by the Presiding Bishop.~~ The Suffragan Bishop Suffragan so elected shall be *ordained and consecrated* and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. ~~The Suffragan Bishop shall be eligible for election as Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop of a Diocese.~~**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 441.





**Resolution Number:** 2012-D085

**Title:** On the Topic of Amending the Constitution on Electing Bishops

**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected

**Final Text:**

Resolution Rejected. See Legislative History for original text of resolution.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2013), p. 239.