

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018**  
**ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A151

**TITLE:** Amend Article I.4-8 of the Constitution

**PROPOSER:** Task Force on the Episcopacy

**TOPIC:** Constitution

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

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 (Rejected)

**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]

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) *Report to General Convention*, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 748-749.

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*

# A151 Amend Article I.4-8 of the Constitution

Proposer	Task Force on the Episcopacy
Topic	Constitution
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 3-4
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Article II.4-8 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 ARTICLE II
- 3 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.
- 4 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 or is removed from office pursuant to Canon III.12.12(7)*, a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* of that Diocese may be ~~placed in charge of such Diocese~~ and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof *serving as the Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore* 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 *serving as the Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore of the Diocese*.
- 5 Sec. 6. A Bishop may not resign jurisdiction without the consent of the House of Bishops.
- 6 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.

- 7 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.

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#### 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:** 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 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

**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That Article II, Section 8 of the Constitution be amended as follows:

Sec. 8. A Bishop who has for at least five years next preceding, exercised jurisdiction as the Ordinary or as the Bishop Coadjutor, or who has commenced the exercise of jurisdiction as the Ordinary or as the Bishop Coadjutor at least five years prior, of a Diocese, may be elected as Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop of another Diocese. 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.