

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A181  
**TITLE:** Liability Insurance for Clergy  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons  
**TOPIC:** Discipline

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

None

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

2009-A185 Amend Title IV [Ecclesiastical Discipline] in whole, see Canon IV.19.23

*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.*

# A181 Liability Insurance for Clergy

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<b>Proposer</b>	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HD / 03 - Safeguarding and Title IV
<b>Current Status</b>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to examine the potential difficulties concerning clergy being able to obtain adequate representation during a Title IV procedure and directs the Commission to bring to the 80th General Convention specific recommendations which address the means by which clergy will be as adequately represented as are the dioceses bringing forth Title IV actions.

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## EXPLANATION

Clergy in the Episcopal Church are subject to a code of professional conduct and yet may not be able to have adequate resources for legal representation during a disciplinary action. Unlike attorneys and physicians who, in certain circumstances, may have insurance available through insurance companies or through professional organizations to mitigate costs of a professional disciplinary action, and unlike teachers who have the same opportunity through unions, Episcopal Clergy have no avenue for obtaining similar assistance. When Title IV was being revised from a trial court model to the present, the 73rd General Convention resolved that a Task Force should be formed to “(research) the disciplinary policies and procedures of other churches and various professions...” Part of those procedures, should also have considered an awareness of not just the availability to the respondent of legal counsel but the means by which one can obtain that representation.

Title IV makes provision for clergy to have legal representation. Title IV therefore presupposes that legal representation is a component for fairness during the disciplinary process. However, the cost of such representation can be prohibitive to clergy who earn, on average, considerably less than those with comparable education and training. It is time to address this need and provide clergy with the means to enjoy the same access to legal representation as have other professions, which includes being able to afford that access.