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**A BILL FOR THE
EPISCOPAL STANDARDS (CHILD PROTECTION) (AMENDMENT)
CANON 2022**

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The General Synod prescribes as follows:

Title

- 15 1. This Canon may be cited as the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) (Amendment) Canon 2022.

Purpose

- 20 2. The purpose of this Canon is to amend the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 in order to implement certain recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Action following risk assessment

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3. The Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 is amended as follows:

- 30 (a) in section 13(1), for “At any time after the ESC has commenced or caused to be commenced an investigation of information under this Part in circumstances where it considers” substitute “Subject to section 14A, where at any time after the ESC has commenced or caused to be commenced an investigation of information under this Part it considers”;

- 35 (b) after section 14 insert:

“14A. This section applies if, at any time after it has commenced or caused to be commenced under this or any other Canon an investigation of a complaint, the ESC forms the opinion that—

- 40 (a) the complaint involves a sexual offence relating to a child by a person who is a Bishop; and
(b) the complaint is plausible.

- 45 14B. (1) If section 14A applies, the ESC must recommend to the President of the Board that the person be suspended from the duties of office.

- (2) Where the ESC makes a recommendation under sub-section (1), the President of the Tribunal must suspend the person from the duties of office.

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- 5 (3) A person suspended under sub-section (2) from the duties of a paid
office, or a person to whom section 14A applies who voluntarily stands
aside from performing the duties of office, is deemed to be on paid
leave and to be absent from the State or Territory in which the duties
of office would otherwise be performed.
- 10 14C. (1) A person suspended from the duties of office under section 14B(2)
remains suspended until—
- 15 (a) the ESC decides to refrain from further investigation under one
or both of—
- (i) paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of section 19 of the Special
Tribunal Canon 2007; or
- 20 (ii) paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of section 10 of this Canon—
- and there are no other investigations in relation to that person to
which section 14A applies; or
- 25 (b) the conclusion of an investigation or legal proceedings referred
to in section 19(b) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 or
section 10(b) of this Canon when there are no other
investigations to which 14A applies; or
- 30 (c) the person has been deposed from Holy Orders, prohibited from
functioning in an order of ministry, or relinquished the
exercise of some or all Holy Orders under the Constitution
or a canon of the General Synod; or
- 35 (d) the ESC brings a charge of a sexual offence relating to a child
against the person—
whichever occurs first.”
- (c) in section 15(1), for “section 13” substitute “sections 13 or 14A”.