

**A BILL FOR THE
EPISCOPAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS AMENDMENT CANON
2022**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Standing Committee proposes the amendment to the Episcopal Standards Canon 2007 (Principal Canon) as a result of a recommendation made by the Episcopal Standards Commission (ESC). The ESC has found that it spends a significant part of its time on matters concerning dissatisfaction with decisions made by bishops in the exercise of their functions that either have been dealt with, or would be better dealt with, under a complaints or grievance process in force in the bishop's diocese. Section 10 of the Principal Canon prescribes four circumstances where the ESC may decide not to investigate information or refrain from further investigation. It is therefore proposed to add a fifth circumstance where, in the ESC's opinion the allegations of examinable conduct have been dealt with adequately, or could be dealt with adequately, under a complaints or grievance process in force in the relevant diocese.
2. As the addition of a further circumstance for terminating an investigation requires the punctuation at the conclusion of paragraph (d) of s 10 of the Principal Canon to be amended and the word "or" inserted, it is simpler to delete the existing paragraph (d) and insert paragraph (d) and the new paragraph (e) as one amendment.