

A BILL FOR A RULE TO AMEND RULE III— NOMINATIONS AND BALLOTING 2022

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

GENERAL BACKGROUND

This bill deals with two matters, electronic balloting for elections, and checking the names of candidates for election against the National Register.

In relation to electronic voting, the bill inserts into Rule III a new rule 7A that allows the use of an approved electronic method instead of a ballot conducted under rules 8 to 13.

In relation to the checking of candidates against the National Register, this extends the existing rule to cover all candidates for election by the General Synod: at present the rules cover only candidates for Standing Committee, the Appellate Tribunal and the Special Tribunal panel.

It is intended to introduce this Bill early on in this meeting so that Rule III as amended will apply to elections conducted during the session.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

- Clause 1 introduces a new rule 7A. It allows the Standing Committee to decide that a ballot that would otherwise be conducted under rules 8 to 13 will instead be conducted by an approved electronic method. An approved electronic method is one recommended by the General Secretary and approved by the Provisional Business Committee. It must record and count in exactly the same way as would happen under rules 8 to 13, and be equally secure and accurate.
- Clause 2 amends rule 5(a1) so that that paragraph (which concerns information to be provided by nominees) applies to those nominated for any election conducted at the Synod.
- Clause 3 amends rule 6(a1) so that that paragraph (which obliges the General Secretary to check each candidate against the National Register) applies to all candidates for election at the Synod.