

## **Bill No.7**

**Proposer: Mr Ken Gibson**

### **Embargo Until Delivery • Check Against Delivery**

As the Explanatory Memorandum says, this bill would, if passed, allow Synod to consider changes to the terminology used in the bills process as described in the Standing Orders either later in this Synod or at a future Synod. As members may be aware, changes to the Standing Orders are made by motions and not by bills. However, for some reason the Constitution is very specific on the detailed process – it ties our hands a bit so to allow Synod to consider any terminology change either now or in the future, we need to make a very minor amendment to Chapter 1, Part 11, Section 25. I will return to that in a moment.

The bills process has for very many years, probably since Disestablishment or shortly thereafter, served the General Synod very well in that it follows well-defined stages.

Those well-defined stages allow us to consider the principles, the detail and, after several days for reflection and prayer, help us either pass or reject a bill.

I want to emphasise that this bill does not propose any change to the principles of that tried and tested methodology.

It's simply about making a very minor change in the Constitution to allow Synod to consider a later motion to change the terminology used in the Standing Orders either now or in the future.

So all the bill does is remove five words in Section 25 – “having been read three times”. The new Section 25 in your bills papers would then read as stated in the bills pamphlet – “passed in accordance with the Standing Orders”.

Now a procedural point. If Synod passes the first stages of this bill, we will be considering the related motion (Motion 17) tomorrow and therefore ahead of the final reading of the bill next Tuesday evening, so approval of the motion cannot be carried into effect unless the bill passes its final reading. If synod rejects the Bill at any stage, then the related motion falls.