

RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS: ENGLAND

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Since the last report (see (1994) 3 Ecc LJ 247) the General Synod has met on two occasions in July and November 1994. There was little legislative business at the July Synod, it being confined to the revision of the amending instruments for the election rules of the three Houses prior to fresh elections in 1995 and to the up-dating of the Fees Orders made pursuant to the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986.

At the November Sessions, the Synod gave final approval to the instruments amending the election rules and these came into force on 1 January 1995. The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure and Amending Canon No 19. (containing miscellaneous amendments of a number of Canons some of which are linked to the Measure) were revised and given final approval (see (1994) 3 Ecc LJ 191).

The Measure has since been reported as expedient by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament and awaits consideration by both Houses.

The Team and Group Ministries Measure (see (1992) 2 Ecc LJ 387) received the Royal Assent on 28 June, 1995 and section 2 came into force on that date. The other sections of the Measure are likely to be brought into force after the promulgation of Amending Canon No 16; this amends canons which are linked to the provisions of the Measure. At this stage there is no date for promulgation.

The Convocations and the General Synod will be dissolved on 20 July 1995 following the July Group of Sessions. It is expected that the Writs for the summoning of the new Convocations and General Synod will be issued for 28 November 1995.