

Law 590/1977 (A'146) "On the charter of the Church of Greece"

**CHAPTER A
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1

1. The Church of Greece, being a divine institution, having as its Head Our Lord Jesus Christ, is inseparably united in doctrine with the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople and with every other Orthodox Church of Christ, upholding the teaching of the Holy Scripture and preserving, as do all other Orthodox Churches, the dogmas, the sacred apostolic and synodical canons, and the holy traditions.
2. The Church of Greece is autocephalous and shall be governed, within the framework of the articles of the Constitution concerning religion, by its serving Metropolitans.
3. The Church of Greece comprises the Metropolises of the Autocephalous Church of Greece, in accordance with the Patriarchal and Synodical Tome of 29 June 1850 and the Patriarchal and Synodical Acts of July 1866 and May 1882 and the Metropolises of the New Lands, in accordance with the Patriarchal Act of 4 September 1928, and has as its members all Orthodox Christians residing within their respective territories.
4. In their legal relations, the Church of Greece, the Metropolises, the Parishes together with their parish churches, the Monasteries, the Apostoliki Diakonia, the Church Property Management Organization, the Greek Clergy Insurance Fund, and the Inter-Orthodox Centre of the Church of Greece shall be Legal Entities under Public Law. The Ecclesiastical Orphanage of Vouliagmeni, as well as the other ecclesiastical institutions of the Archdiocese of Athens and the Metropolises, which were operating until the entry into force of this law and possess legal personality, shall be Legal Entities under Private Law and shall operate on the basis of their existing statutes, which may henceforth be supplemented and amended by regulatory decisions issued by the competent Archbishop, which shall regulate their administration, management, supervision, and general operation, as well as the general employment status of their personnel.
5. The ecclesiastical status quo in Crete, the Dodecanese, and Mount Athos, governed by the patriarchal regime currently in force, shall not be affected by this law.

Article 2

The Church of Greece shall cooperate with the State on matters of common interest, such as the Christian education of youth, religious services in the armed forces, the promotion of the institution of marriage and family, the care of those in need of protection, the preservation of sacred relics and ecclesiastical and Christian monuments, the establishment of new religious holidays, and shall seek the protection of the State whenever religion is challenged.

Article 3

1. The highest ecclesiastical authority of the Church of Greece shall be the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy, composed of the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, as President, together with all Bishops governing the Metropolises, and its permanent administrative

body shall be the Standing Holy Synod, constituted in accordance with the provisions of article 7 of the present law. Both bodies shall have their seat in Athens.

2. The Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and the Standing Holy Synod shall have their own seal bearing in the center a double-headed eagle on a cross, surrounded by the words "HOLY SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE."

CHAPTER B ON THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE HIERARCHY

Article 4

The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece shall decide on all matters concerning the Church. In particular, it shall:

- (a) Ensure the observance of the dogmas of the Orthodox faith, the Holy Canons, and the Holy Traditions, for the unity of the faith and ecclesiastical communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the other Orthodox Patriarchates and Autocephalous Churches, and regulate the relations of the Church of Greece with non-Orthodox denominations.
- (b) Examine and decide on the measures to be taken for the realization of a Christ-like life of the clergy and the Christian people.
- (c) Ensure ecclesiastical order and propriety, as well as all matters relating to divine worship.
- (d) Decide on the exercise of ecclesiastical economy, concession, and leniency by the Church.
- (e) Issue regulatory decisions concerning the organization and internal administration of the Church, as more specifically provided in the present law, which shall be published in the Government Gazette.
- (f) Exercise supreme supervision and control over the acts of the Standing Holy Synod, the Archbishops, the administrative bodies of the Church of Greece, as well as the individual ecclesiastical legal entities, in accordance with the provisions in force.
- (g) Elect the Archbishop of Athens and the Metropolitans in accordance with the provisions of the present law.
- (h) Establish special committees, as provided in article 10, paragraph 5.
- (i) Decide on the imposition of the penalty of excommunication, in accordance with the Holy Canons.
- (j) Adjudicate appeals for review of final judgments issued against senior Deacons or Monks, as more specifically provided by the law on Ecclesiastical Courts.
- (k) Adopt the rules of procedure for its own work and that of the Standing Holy Synod.
- (l) Exercise the authority deriving from the Holy Canons and other ecclesiastical provisions.
- (m) Decide upon appeals filed pursuant to article 21, paragraph 3.

Article 5

The Vice-President of the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy shall be the member holding precedence in episcopal ordination. In the absence, incapacity, or vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall deputize for him, and, in turn, the next in hierarchical order.

Article 6

1. The Holy Synod of the Hierarchy shall convene in regular meeting on October 1 of each year, and in special meeting whenever convened by its President: (a) either on his own initiative, (b) following a prior decision of the Standing Holy Synod, or (c) upon a request submitted to the President by at least one-third of the serving Metropolitans, which shall specify the matters for which the convening of the Hierarchy is requested. In the case of (b), the President is required to invite the members of the Hierarchy by an act issued within ten (10) days from the date on which the convening was decided, fixing a meeting date not later than twenty (20) days from the same date. In the case of (c), the President shall promptly submit the request to the Standing Holy Synod, which shall decide thereon, either assigning the President to convene the Holy Synod for a meeting no later than twenty (20) days from the date of the meeting of the Standing Holy Synod, or refusing the convening by means of a reasoned decision communicated to those who submitted the request for a Hierarchy meeting. If the applicants insist on their request by submitting a new application to the President, the convening of the Hierarchy shall become mandatory for him, and he shall convene it on a date not later than twenty (20) days from the submission of the request.

The President shall bear canonical responsibility should he fail to convene the Holy Synod in the cases referred to in (b) and (c).

2. The Holy Synod shall meet on the basis of an agenda. For regular meetings, the agenda shall be prepared by the Standing Holy Synod, and the President shall notify all members of the Hierarchy at least two (2) months prior to the meeting. For a special meeting, the agenda shall be prepared by the President, in the case of (a) and by the Standing Holy Synod, in the case of (b).

In the case of (c), the agenda shall include the matters listed in the request and shall be prepared by the President. In all three cases, the agenda shall be communicated to all members of the Holy Synod together with the President's act convening the meeting.

The Holy Synod may, at a regular meeting, decide to discuss matters other than those listed on the agenda. If the proceedings of the regular meeting are concluded without the agenda having been exhausted, the remaining matters shall be discussed as a matter of priority at the next regular meeting of the Hierarchy. At a special meeting, all matters included in the request must be exhausted.

3. Archbishops present at the meeting may not leave without sufficient cause. Departure of an Archbishop from a meeting without sufficient cause and before a decision is reached, as well as unjustified non-participation, shall constitute a canonical offence. The Holy Synod shall have a quorum if the Metropolitans present exceed half of their total number. The decisions of the Holy Synod shall be adopted by a majority of the members present, and, in the event of a tie in an open vote, the vote of the President shall prevail.

However, on matters of fundamental importance and significance for the Church, as determined by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy, such as the imposition of the penalty of excommunication and the exercise, by way of ecclesiastical economy, of concession and leniency by the Church, decisions shall be taken by a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of members of the Hierarchy.

4. No Archbishop finally sentenced to suspension shall participate in the proceedings of the Holy Synod for the duration of the suspension, subject to the provisions in force at the time concerning the enforcement of penalties imposed on Archbishops.

The regular and special meetings of the Holy Synod shall not last longer than one month, unless otherwise decided by the Holy Synod in each specific case.

5. All matters concerning the organization and operation of the Holy Synod shall be regulated by its decisions, published in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER C ON THE STANDING HOLY SYNOD

Article 7

1. The Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece shall be composed of the Archbishop of Athens, as President, and twelve members, six of whom shall be selected from among the serving Metropolitans of the Autocephalous Church of Greece based on seniority of episcopate and by rotation, while the remaining six shall be selected in the same manner from among the serving Metropolitans of the New Lands. The Standing Holy Synod shall have a quorum if the members present exceed by one the half of the total number of its members, and its decisions shall be taken by majority vote; in the event of a tie, the President's vote shall prevail.
2. An Archbishop who has been finally convicted and suspended from office shall be precluded from exercising his synodical duties for the duration of the suspension.
3. In the absence or incapacity of the President, he shall be replaced by the Archbishop next in seniority among the present members of the Standing Holy Synod, in accordance with the holy canons.
4. The Standing Holy Synod shall maintain services and offices in Athens, headed by its Chief Secretary, assisted by the Recording Secretary and the Assistant Secretary.

Article 8

1. The synodical term shall be annual, beginning on September 1 of each year and ending on August 31 of the following year.
2. The designated or serving synodical member may resign from his synodical duties for reasonable cause, as determined by the Standing Holy Synod. Upon acceptance of the resignation, the President shall appoint as a member the next in line of episcopal ordination among those of the respective order.

In the same way a member, who has unjustifiably failed to participate in the Standing Holy Synod's proceedings for a period of one month, is replaced. The member called as replacement shall remain in office for the following synodical term, if he was called after the expiration of the first six months of the current synodical term

Article 9

1. The Standing Holy Synod, as the permanent administrative body of the Church, shall exercise the following competencies:
 - (a) Supervise the precise implementation of the decisions of the Holy Synod,
 - (b) Carry out the acts specifically assigned to it by the Holy Synod,
 - (c) Issue opinions on all ecclesiastical laws put to vote,
 - (d) Address current ecclesiastical matters,
 - (e) Oversee the doctrinal content of the Religious Education textbooks intended for elementary and secondary schools,
 - (f) Cooperate with the State on matters of ecclesiastical education and provide for the training of the clergy, being empowered to establish special training schools for this purpose,
 - (g) Care for the life in Christ of the Orthodox faithful and provide for this through the preaching of the divine word, catechism schools, religious lectures, the publication of appropriate books and journals, pastoral circulars, and any other appropriate means as it may deem suitable. In the event of disturbance to the Orthodox Church caused by heretical teaching or other intervention, the Standing Holy Synod shall request the intervention of the competent authorities and shall issue pastoral letters to the people for their protection.
 - (h) Exercise the competencies assigned to it by the law concerning Ecclesiastical Courts,
 - (i) Supervise the fulfilment of the duties of clergy and monks,
 - (j) Grant Archbishops permission for absence exceeding ten days from their sees,
 - (k) Publish an official Bulletin under the title "Church", in which ecclesiastical laws, acts, provisions, decisions and circulars of both the Standing Holy Synod and the Holy Synod are recorded, as well as theological and edifying articles and ecclesiastical news. Failure to publish an act of a regulatory or individual nature in this Bulletin shall not render such act invalid, except in the cases provided for in articles 19(2), 21(1), and 39(4) of the present law.
2. During the interim period until the convening of the Holy Synod, the Standing Holy Synod shall exercise all ecclesiastical administrative authority in accordance with the holy canons, holy traditions, and laws, with the exception of those specified in article 4 under items (g), (i), (j), and (m) of the present law, and during the period when the Holy Synod or the Standing Holy Synod is in session, it shall exercise its own competencies.
3. The decisions of the Standing Holy Synod shall be implemented by the President through the Chief Secretariat, provided they do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Apostoliki Diakonia or the Church Property Management Organization, in which case they shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the relevant bodies.
4. All matters concerning the organization and operation of the Standing Holy Synod, as well as its services and offices, shall be regulated by its decisions published in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER D

ON THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEES

Article 10

1. For the study and elaboration of the agenda matters of the meetings of the Holy Synod, as well as to assist the overall work of the Standing Holy Synod and the implementation

of their decisions, the following Synodical Committees are hereby established, with advisory authority:

- (a) The Committee on the Chief Secretariat,
 - (b) The Committee on Ecclesiastical Art and Music,
 - (c) The Committee on Doctrinal and Canonical Matters,
 - (d) The Committee on Divine Worship and Pastoral Work,
 - (e) The Committee on Monastic Life,
 - (f) The Committee on the Christian education of youth,
 - (g) The Committee on ecclesiastical education and the training of the clergy,
 - (h) The Committee on the press, public relations and public information,
 - (i) The Committee on heresies,
 - (j) The Committee on social welfare and charity, and
 - (k) The Committee on the finances of the Church.
2. Each Synodical Committee, with the exception of the Committee on the Chief Secretariat, shall consist of seven members, experts in these matters, four of whom shall be clergy, whether Archbishops or not. Among the Archbishops, there must be a Synodical Hierarchy, appointed by the Standing Holy Synod at the beginning of each synodical term and for the duration of his synodical term, who shall serve as the link between the Synodical Committee and the Standing Holy Synod. The remaining members, together with an equal number of alternates, shall be appointed by the Holy Synod for a four-year term, which may be renewed. The Synodical Committee on the Chief Secretariat shall consist of three Archbishops, one of whom shall be a member of the Synod, appointed as described above by the Holy Synod. The President of each Synodical Committee shall be the member holding the seniority of high priesthood, except for the Committee on the Finances of the Church, which is presided by the Archbishop, who also proposes its participating members. The lay members of the Synodical Committee on Finance shall be appointed by the Holy Synod from among regular professors of Economics at Higher Educational Institutions and senior officials of the Ministries of Finance or the Bank of Greece.
 3. The Committees may, by their own decisions, establish subcommittees, to which non-members may also be appointed.
 4. Matters concerning the composition and competencies of the Synodical Committees, the organization and operation of their offices, and their personnel shall be regulated by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod published in the Government Gazette.
 5. By decision of the Holy Synod, other special Synodical Committees may also be established, beyond those specified in paragraph 1 of this article, for the study and examination of specific matters.

CHAPTER E

ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

Article 11

1. The Church of Greece shall comprise the Archdiocese of Athens and the following Metropolises:
 - A. Of the Autocephalous Church of Greece:
 - (a) Aetolia and Acarnania, (b) Argolis, (c) Arta, (d) Attica, (e) Gortys and Megalopolis, (f) Gytheio and Oitylo, (g) Demetrias and Almyros, (h) Zakynthos, (i) Elia, (j) Thevai and Levadeia, (k) Thira, Amorgos and Nisoi, (l) Thessalotis and Fanariofersala, (m) Kaisariani, Vyron and Ymittos, (n) Kalavryta and Aigialeia, (o) Karystia and Skyros, (p) Corfu and Paxoi, (q)

Cephalonia, (r) Corinth, (s) Kythera, (t) Larissa and Tyrnavos, (u) Lefkada and Ithaca, (v) Mantinea and Kynouria, (w) Megara and Salamis, (x) Messenia, (y) Mesogaia and Lavreotiki, (z) Monemvasia and Sparta, (aa) Nafpaktos and Evrytania, (ab) Nea Ionia and Philadelphia, (ac) Nea Smyrni, (ad) Nicaea, (ae) Paronaxia, (af) Patras, (ag) Piraeus, (ah) Peristeri, (ai) Syros, Tinos, Andros, Kea and Milos, (aj) Trikki and Stagoi, (ak) Trifylia and Olympia, (al) Hydra, Spetses and Aegina, (am) Phthiotis, (an) Phocis, and (ao) Chalcis.

B. Of the Ecumenical Patriarchal Throne:

(a) Alexandroupolis, (b) Veria and Naousa, (c) Grevena, (d) Didymoteicho and Orestiada, (e) Drama, (f) Dryinoupolis, Pogoniani and Konitsa, (g) Edessa, Pella and Almopia, (h) Ellassona, (i) Eleftheroupolis, (j) Zichni and Nevrokopi, (k) Thessaloniki, (l) Ierissos, Mount Athos and Ardamerion, (m) Ioannina, (n) Kassandreia, (o) Kastoria, (p) Kitros and Katerini, (q) Lagadas, (r) Lemnos, (s) Maroneia and Komotini, (t) Mithymna, (u) Mytilene, Eressos and Plomari, (v) Neapolis and Stavroupolis, (w) Nea Krini and Kalamaria, (x) Nikopolis and Preveza, (y) Xanthi and Peritheorion, (z) Paramythia, Filiates and Giromeri, (aa) Polyani and Kilkis, (ab) Samos and Ikaria, (ac) Servia and Kozani, (ad) Serres and Nigrita, (ae) Sidirokastro, (af) Sisani and Siatista, (ag) Philippi, Neapolis and Thasos, (ah) Florina, Prespes and Eordaia, and (ai) Chios, Psara and Oinousses.

2. The territorial jurisdiction, the name, and the seats of the Metropolises shall be determined by decisions of the Holy Synod, in accordance with the holy canons, and shall be published in the Government Gazette. Each Prefecture must, in accordance with the holy canons, include the territorial jurisdiction of at least one Metropolis, otherwise, a Metropolis shall be hereby established with a territory corresponding to that of the Prefecture and its seat in the capital thereof.
3. Each Metropolis shall be subdivided into parishes having as their center the respective parish church.

CHAPTER F

ON THE ELECTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE

Article 12

1. Upon the vacancy of the throne of the Archdiocese of Athens, the duties of locum tenens shall be assumed by the serving Metropolitan having precedence in episcopal seniority, and in the event of his inability or refusal, the next in rank shall assume such duties, and so on.
2. The Standing Holy Synod, convening under the presidency of the locum tenens, shall, no later than five (5) days after the day on which the throne became vacant, officially announce the vacancy to the serving Metropolitans and shall set a date for a special meeting of the Holy Synod the election of an Archbishop, no later than twenty (20) days from the date of the vacancy. And the venue shall be the Cathedral of Athens.
3. All Greeks, currently serving Metropolitans, as well as clergy registered on the list of candidates for episcopal election of the Church of Greece, are eligible for election.

Article 13

1. The election shall be held in a single, uninterrupted session in the presence of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, who shall be invited in writing by the locum tenens

of the throne at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the election. The session shall be presided over by the senior-ranking member among those present, while the duties of Secretary shall be performed by the junior-ranking Metropolitan among those present. Should the Minister, having been invited as above, fail to attend, the session shall be deemed valid.

2. The Holy Synod shall have a quorum if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the serving Metropolitans of the Church of Greece are present. Should such quorum not be achieved, the Holy Synod shall reconvene, without further notice, on the following working day at the same time and place, and shall then be deemed to have a quorum regardless of the number of those present.

Article 14

1. After prayer, once a quorum has been confirmed, the members present shall be called to vote as specified below; the voting process shall be supervised by a committee consisting of the presiding officer of the assembly and the two Archbishops immediately following him in episcopal seniority among those present.
2. The aforementioned committee shall verify, in the presence of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, if present, and the Secretary, that the ballot box is empty, after which the Secretary shall seal it with tape and Spanish wax and the metal seal of the Holy Synod.
3. The President of the Committee then shall invite the members, beginning with the junior-ranking in episcopal seniority, to approach and cast their votes. Each member called shall receive from the Secretary a standard envelope and ballot, and shall retire to a designated area within the Cathedral, arranged so that the voter is not visible to the others present and shall write on the ballot the name of the Metropolitan of his choice and his title; then, after placing the ballot in the envelope, he shall hand it to the presiding officer, who, after initialing it and affixing the seal of the Holy Synod, shall drop it into the ballot box by lifting the strip covering the slot. The voter shall immediately sign the register containing the names of the electors. This register shall serve as the election record, in which all actions taken pursuant to the provisions of this and the following article, as well as of any other incident that has occurred.
4. Once the voting has completed, after all those present have been called upon to vote in accordance with the above, their voting being mandatory, the seal shall be removed from the ballot box, which shall then be opened by the presiding officer. The ballots contained therein shall be taken one by one by the most-senior of the two co-presiding Metropolitans and are counted in the order in which they are removed from the ballot box and initialed by the presiding officer and the other two Metropolitans, after which the presiding officer shall announce the name written on each ballot.

Article 15

1. Once the counting of votes has been completed, during which the Secretary shall record in the election minutes the name of each person voted for together with the numbers of the ballots by which each was elected, the votes cast in favor of each shall be counted and their number shall be verified against the ballots by the presiding Metropolitan and the two co-presiding Metropolitans. The number of votes, along with the name of each candidate who received them, shall then be announced by the President.

2. The person receiving the absolute majority of votes cast shall be considered elected. Should no candidate obtain an absolute majority in the first ballot, the voting shall immediately and without interruption be repeated in the same manner as above, using the same election records. The ballots of the first round shall be placed in a separate envelope, sealed with Spanish wax and the seal of the Holy Synod, and initialed by the presiding officer, the two Metropolitans, and the Secretary.
3. Should no candidate obtain an absolute majority in the second ballot, the voting shall immediately be repeated in the same manner as described above, and the candidate receiving the relative majority shall be considered elected. In the event of a tie in the third ballot, the Archbishop shall be chosen by lot among those receiving an equal number of votes.
4. Any objection raised during the session for the election of the Archbishop, concerning the voting procedure or the qualifications of candidates, shall be submitted in writing by the end of the voting. Any objection regarding the validity of ballots or the procedure following the completion of voting shall likewise be submitted immediately and in writing. Objections of both these categories shall be decided immediately and finally, by decision recorded in the minutes, by the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs if present, or, in his absence, by the Election Committee.
5. The election minutes, dated and signed by the presiding officer, the two co-presiding Metropolitans, and the Secretary, shall be filed in the archives of the Standing Holy Synod under the responsibility of the presiding officer and the Secretary and a certified copy thereof, prepared by the Secretary immediately upon the conclusion of the election and signed by him and the presiding officer, shall be forwarded to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs.
6. The person elected shall immediately deliver the prescribed message, and the Standing Holy Synod shall notify the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of this in writing on the same day, whereupon the Ministry shall, no later than five (5) days, issue a Presidential Decree concerning his recognition and status.

Article 16

1. Following the publication of the Presidential Decree concerning recognition and status, the Archbishop shall make the following affirmation before the President of the Republic, in the presence of the Standing Holy Synod and the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs "I solemnly affirm upon my episcopal office that I shall fulfil my archiepiscopal duties by the grace of God with all diligence and strength, strictly observing the holy Apostolic and Synodical Canons and the holy traditions, and I declare my obedience to the Constitution and the laws of the State."
2. Following this affirmation, the enthronement shall take place in accordance with ecclesiastical order.

CHAPTER G

ON THE ELECTION OF METROPOLITANS

Article 17

1. The election of an Archbishop shall be conducted solely by the Holy Synod and from the list in force at the relevant time, in accordance with the provisions set forth below.

2. In order to be elected as an Archbishop, a candidate must be registered on the list of those eligible for episcopal office.
3. This list shall also include clergy possessing the qualifications specified in the following article and proposed by the Holy Synod and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, subject to the other provisions of this law. Those so registered shall be eligible for election only through the Metropolises of the New Lands.

Article 18

1. In order to be eligible for the list for episcopal office, a person must meet the following qualifications:
 - a) He must be sound in faith, distinguished for prudence and an irreproachable moral life, and possess teaching and pastoral experience.
 - b) He must be celibate or widowed and must have been ordained for at least five (5) years.
 - c) He must have held for at least five (5) years a degree from a theological school of a Greek University or a recognized and equivalent Orthodox Theological School.
 - d) He must be a Greek citizen or of Greek descent, in which case the elected shall automatically acquire Greek citizenship pursuant to article 29 of this law recognizing such status.
 - e) He must have fulfilled his military obligations or have been legally exempted.
 - f) He must be at least the thirty-five (35) years of age.
 - g) He must not have been irrevocably convicted by a synodical court to a suspension exceeding six (6) months, by the civil courts to a sentence entailing the deprivation of his civil rights, even after the expiration of the period of deprivation or to any other penalty, whether for a felony or any of the criminal offences listed in article 18, paragraph 2 of Law 1811/1951. A referral regarding any of the above acts or a final conviction, not yet irrevocable, shall prevent registration in the list until a final acquittal or a decision of acquittal is issued. The removal of the consequences of the conviction in any matter shall not remove the impediment to registration on the list of eligible candidates.
2. In addition to the general qualifications specified in the preceding paragraph, the candidate must also possess at least one of the following special qualifications listed under A to D below.
 - A. At least five (5) years of total actual service in one or more of the following positions:
 - a) Chief Secretary or Secretary of the Holy Synod.
 - b) Protosyncellus or General Episcopal Commissioner of the Archdiocese of Athens or a Metropolis or Episcopal Commissioner of a Metropolis or Secretary of the Archdiocese of Athens or a Metropolis of the Church of Greece and abroad.
 - c) Regular Preacher or preacher of the Apostolikos Diakonias or Priest of the Armed Forces, Security Forces, or Prisons.
 - d) Director of an Ecclesiastical School, serving in the capacity of a clergy.
 - e) General Director or Director of a central ecclesiastical organization in the capacity of a clergy or Secretary of a Synodical Committee, and

f) Abbot of a Monastery in which more than five monks reside.

B. At least ten (10) years of actual service in one or more of the following positions:

a) Parish Priest or Preacher, either of the Church of Greece or within the jurisdiction of both the Ecumenical Throne and the other ancient Orthodox Patriarchates, including service as a deacon after obtaining a theological degree and for up to five (5) years.

C. The status of Professor or Associate Professor at a Theological School.

3. Members of the monastic brotherhoods of the Holy Sepulcher and the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai who meet the qualifications for episcopal office specified on the Charter shall be registered, after five (5) years of satisfactory service, in the relevant list by the Holy Synod upon the proposal of the competent Ecclesiastical Authority.
4. The Holy Synod may, by way of exception, register on the list of those eligible for episcopal office graduates of higher education and clergy with theological knowledge, who, while not possessing the formal qualifications required by law, have distinguished themselves through their contribution to theological scholarship or the pastoral work of the Church.
5. Any registration of a person on the list of candidates for episcopal office effected in violation of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this article shall be null and void.

Article 19

1. Every serving Metropolitan shall be entitled, by the end of December of each year, to propose to the Standing Holy Synod clerics for inclusion in the list of those eligible for the Episcopacy, submitting the certificates attesting to their qualifications together with a report. The Synodical Committee on the Chief Secretariat of the Holy Synod shall also have the same right. Any person not nominated for inclusion may, within fifteen (15) days from the publication of the list referred to in the following paragraph, request this by an application submitted to the Synodical Committee on the Chief Secretariat, which shall submit a recommendation to the Standing Holy Synod.
2. In January of each year, the Chief Secretariat, having examined the supporting documents of the clerics proposed for inclusion in the list, shall record the names of those possessing the qualifications required by law, along with a brief biographical note, in a "Preliminary List," which it shall communicate to the serving Metropolitans and publish through the bulletin "CHURCH" and two daily newspapers in Athens.
3. In the event that an application for inclusion is submitted after the publication of the above "Preliminary List" and the expiration of the fifteen-day period, a "Supplementary List" shall be compiled and published above and communicated to the serving Metropolitans.

Article 20

1. An objection against the inclusion of any candidate in the "Preliminary List" or the "Supplementary List" may be filed within two (2) months from the last publication of each list by any cleric or layperson of the Orthodox Church of Greece, containing full details of his identity, as well as the exact address of his permanent residence, on the grounds that the person listed does not possess the substantive or formal qualifications required for the Episcopacy. The objection shall be submitted to the competent Metropolitan, who shall be obliged to forward it within one (1) month from its receipt, together with a detailed report, to

the Chief Secretariat. The objection may also be submitted directly to the Chief Secretariat, which shall forward it without delay to the competent Metropolitan in the case of clerics of the Church of Greece, and in any other cases of a proposal pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 17 hereof, it shall forward it to the Standing Holy Synod, which shall act accordingly.

2. The Standing Holy Synod, by a decision taken at its first meeting following receipt of the objection, shall order a sworn inquiry to verify the matters alleged therein, to be conducted by a cleric appointed by the Standing Holy Synod, which shall be completed no later than one (1) month from the date of the order for investigation. This deadline may be extended in exceptional cases for an additional month by decision of the Standing Holy Synod. Upon completion of the inquiry, the file, together with the findings, shall be submitted to the Synodical Committee on the Chief Secretariat, which shall make a recommendation to the Standing Holy Synod, which shall decide on the matter prior to the commencement of the procedure referred to in the following article.

Article 21

1. The Standing Holy Synod, within the month of August of each year, and in any event prior to the expiration of its term of office, taking into consideration all the information gathered on the candidates through the preceding procedure, as well as the information contained in the individual files maintained for each of them, shall compile a "list of candidates," which shall include all those who, following the above procedure, meet the formal qualifications and against whom no objections have been filed, or against whom any objections have been finally dismissed, shall notify the serving Metropolitans for their information and shall publish this in the "CHURCH" bulletin and two daily newspapers in Athens.
2. The Holy Synod, at its regular meeting, by secret ballot and by majority vote of the members present, shall decide on the inclusion or exclusion from the List of eligible candidates of those included in the list of Candidates referred to in the preceding paragraph, provided that, in its sound judgment, they possess all qualifications required, and thus, shall complete the currently valid list of candidates for the episcopacy. Blank votes shall be counted in favor of the candidate. In the event that the Holy Synod is convened on an extraordinary basis, it shall decide as above on the list of candidates for the episcopacy, provided that the relevant procedure has been completed in all other respects.
3. Before proceeding with the process of compiling the list, as defined in the preceding paragraph, the Holy Synod shall make a final decision, by secret ballot and by majority vote of the members present, on any objections that may have been submitted to the Standing Holy Synod against the list of candidates in paragraph 1 after its completion and concern the legality and regularity of the inclusion or exclusion of any person therein.
4. The process of completing the list, once initiated, shall not suspend the validity of the existing list.

Article 22

1. A person registered in the list of candidates eligible for the Episcopacy may at any time be removed therefrom by a reasoned decision of the Standing Holy Synod, provided that it is determined that such person has lost any of the qualifications required by law for registration or lacked any such qualification at the time of registration.
2. In cases where, in the judgment of the Standing Holy Synod, verification is required regarding the grounds necessitating the removal of a person from the list of those eligible for the Episcopacy, the Standing Holy Synod shall, by decision, assign to a Metropolitan the conduct

of an inquiry under oath; upon completion thereof, taking into account the relevant findings as well as all collected evidence, the Standing Holy Synod, upon a recommendation of the president of the Synodical Committee on the Chief Secretariat, shall decide by majority vote of the members present whether or not to remove the candidate and, in the affirmative case, shall proceed to the necessary amendment of the list.

3. In the event of removal pursuant to the preceding paragraph, paragraph 3 of the preceding article shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 23

1. Upon the vacancy of a metropolitan see of the Church of Greece, the President of the Standing Holy Synod shall appoint, as *locum tenens*, until filled, one of the neighboring Metropolitans holding seniority of the Archiepiscopate.
2. The *Locum Tenens* appointed to the vacant Metropolises shall perform only their current duties, not being entitled to make any changes in the offices, parishes, monasteries, or its institutions. In matters of an urgent nature, the *Locum Tenens* may take such actions only upon prior approval of the Standing Holy Synod, granted specifically for each individual case.

Article 24

1. The election of a Metropolitan to fill a vacant Metropolis shall take place within six (6) months at the latest from the date on which such Metropolis became vacant, by the Holy Synod, which shall convene for this purpose on an extraordinary basis, provided that the time of the regular meeting does not coincide with this period.
2. The filling of a Metropolis shall normally be made by election, however, in exceptional cases, it may be made, as a matter of expediency for the greater benefit of the Church and due to special circumstances, by transfer following a decision of the Holy Synod taken in accordance with the provisions of the following paragraph, regardless of the territorial extent or population of the Metropolis to be filled.
3. In order to fill a Metropolis by transfer, a decision must first be taken by the Holy Synod at a relevant meeting by secret ballot and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present. The Holy Synod then shall proceed to elect, by secret ballot, one of the Metropolitans eligible under paragraph 5 of this article. The candidate receiving two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of those present shall be considered elected. In the event that such two-thirds (2/3) majority is not achieved in the first ballot, the vacant Metropolitan See shall be filled by election in accordance with the relevant provisions.
4. Upon the official announcement of the decision, the Metropolitan to be transferred shall declare whether he accepts it. If he accepts, the prescribed message shall then be issued. In the event of non-acceptance, the election shall be repeated.
5. No Metropolitan shall be transferred prior to the completion of five (5) years of service from the date of his election as Metropolitan. Once transferred, he may not be transferred again.

Article 25

1. To fill a vacant metropolitan throne, the members of the Holy Synod, convening in a meeting, shall elect by secret ballot three (3) candidates from among the clergy registered in the list of those eligible for the Episcopate. Each elector shall be required to list three (3) candidates on his ballot. Then, the Holy Synod, by secret ballot and relative majority, shall elect one of them to fill the vacant Metropolis.

2. Also eligible for election, without being registered in the list, shall be the Metropolitans of the Church of Greece who are vacant of office in any manner whatsoever, and the Assistant Bishops, as well as the Titular Metropolitans and Bishops in office at the time this provision takes effect.
3. In the event of a tie, whether among Metropolitans or Bishops, preference shall be given to the one holding seniority in episcopal rank; among Presbyters or Deacons, preference shall be given to the one of higher rank; and among Presbyters, to the one holding seniority in the priesthood.
4. Following the election as above, the Lesser Message shall be performed, after which the Holy Synod shall proceed to the Synodical Chapel and perform the Great Message.

Article 26

1. Following notification by the Holy Synod to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of the election, the performance of the Message, and the ordination of the elected, provided that he was not already an Archbishop, a Presidential Decree recognizing and confirming the recognition and status of the elector shall be issued within ten (10) days, upon recommendation of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, who shall only exercise a review of legality, and shall be published in the Government Gazette.
2. Following notification of the Presidential Decree referred to in the preceding paragraph to the Holy Synod, the new Metropolitan shall give, before the President of the Republic, in the presence of the Archbishop of Athens and the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, the affirmation specified in article 16 paragraph 1 of the present Law concerning the fulfillment of his archiepiscopal duties, followed by his enthronement in accordance with ecclesiastical order.

Article 27

The permanent positions of Assistant Bishops established by law as of the entry into force of the present law shall be abolished as soon as they become vacant for any reason; the general status of those serving in these positions shall be governed by the provisions in force to date.

Article 28

In the Holy Services, the Archbishop commemorates "every Orthodox Episcopacy", the Metropolitans of the Autocephalous Church of Greece "our Holy Synod," and those of the New Lands commemorate "our Ecumenical Patriarch [name] and our Holy Synod", the Titular Metropolitans commemorate "our Holy Synod," while the Assistant and Titular Bishops commemorate the local Archbishop.

CHAPTER H

ON THE COMPETENCES AND DUTIES OF THE ARCHBISHOPS

Article 29

1. The Archbishop of Athens, in his capacity as shepherd of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens, as well as each serving Metropolitan, as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Metropolis assigned to him, shall exercise within the territorial jurisdiction of the respective Metropolis the authority provided for by the Holy Canons, ecclesiastical regulations, and the laws of the State, in general.

2. Matters concerning the organization of the administration, and the general operation of the Metropolises shall be regulated by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, published in the Government Gazette. Decisions specifically regulating matters concerning individual Metropolises shall be issued in accordance with the foregoing upon the proposal of the competent Archbishop.

Article 30

The administration of the statutory contributions from Holy Churches for the maintenance of the Metropolitan Offices or other revenues of the Metropolis, shall be conducted under the responsibility of the competent Metropolitan, in accordance with the regulatory decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, as issued and published in the Government Gazette.

Article 31

Every serving Metropolitan shall have his own seal, bearing in the center a double-headed eagle on a cross, surrounded by the name of his Metropolis.

Article 32

1. The Archbishops of the Church of Greece remunerated by the Church Property Management Organization shall receive: The Archbishop of Athens shall receive full remuneration of the President of the Council of State, and the serving Metropolitans shall receive that of a Councilor of State. Titular Metropolitans in office at the time of entry into force of this law shall receive full remuneration of a Councilor of, the payment of which shall be suspended for as long as they, while performing any ecclesiastical office, receive remuneration by virtue of such office. Those receiving any form of pension from the State or from a Legal Entity under Public Law are not entitled to this remuneration. Under the same conditions as above, Titular Bishops in office at the time of entry into force of this law shall receive all forms of remuneration corresponding to those of an Associate member of the Council of State. Assistant Bishops in office at the time of entry into force of this law shall receive all forms of remuneration of the President of the Council of State.
The President and the members of the Standing Holy Synod shall also receive, during the term of their synodical office, a monthly synodical allowance, the amount of which shall be determined by decision of the Standing Holy Synod.
2. The Archbishops of the Church of Greece referred to in the preceding paragraph, as well as those on leave, shall be entitled to medical, and hospital care as provided by the provisions in force for the members of the Council of State to whom they are equivalent in terms of salary pursuant to paragraph 1 of this article. The expenditure required for this purpose shall be borne by the Church Property Management Organization.
3. An annual state subsidy shall be granted to the Church Property Management Organization for covering the expenditure provided for in the final part of article 6, paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No. 4589/1966 "on the regulation of ecclesiastical matters", borne by the State Budget.

Article 33

Upon the death of an Archbishop, his books and vestments shall pass to the legal entity of the competent Metropolis, unless the deceased has otherwise provided for in his will.

Article 34

1. The Archbishop and every serving Metropolitan who has been canonically ordained and installed shall not be deprived of his Metropolis unless following an irrevocable sentence of deposition from the throne or lifelong suspension. Those removed from their Metropolis as described above shall receive from the Church Property Management Organization, for their support, two-thirds (2/3) of the remuneration to which they would have been entitled had they remained in active service.
2. A Metropolitan who is unable to perform his duties due to illness or old age shall be entitled to submit a canonical resignation. The resignation shall be submitted in writing to the Standing Holy Synod, which, upon accepting the resignation, shall notify the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs for the issuance of the relevant Presidential Decree. A Metropolitan may also resign for any other serious reason, which shall be determined by the Standing Holy Synod by an absolute majority of its members present.
3. A Metropolitan who has become unable to fulfil his duties and does not submit his resignation shall be relieved of such duties following a decision of a Special Committee consisted of his lawful deputy as President and two professors of the Medical School of the Country's Universities, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the following paragraphs.
4. The Standing Holy Synod, upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs or on its own initiative, provided that the conditions for the application of paragraph 3 of this article are met, following a prior decision thereof, shall, within fifteen (15) days, through the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, address the President of the Council of State to initiate the relevant procedure.

Within five (5) days of receiving the document of the Standing Holy Synod, the President of the Committee shall request in writing from the Dean of one of the University Medical Schools, depending on the place of residence of the Metropolitan, to appoint within ten (10) days of receiving the document two regular and two alternate members of the Committee from among the professors most specialized in the relevant illness of the respective School. The names of the regular and alternate members of the Committee shall be communicated by the Dean to the President of the Committee, the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, and the Standing Holy Synod.

The Standing Holy Synod shall immediately notify in writing the names of the regular and alternate members of the Committee to the Metropolitan under consideration, who may, within ten (10) days of receiving the notification, submit to the Committee a single objection up to two of the Committee's members. This objection shall be forwarded by the Standing Holy Synod, through the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, to the President of the Committee, proposing the replacement of the said member; the President shall then, following the procedure described above, request the competent Dean to appoint new members to replace those excluded.

5. The Committee established pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be convened by its President to a meeting scheduled no later than fifteen (15) days from receiving the Dean's document notifying the names of its members to be examined by the Archbishop, who shall be summoned in writing, with proof of service, at least ten (10) days prior to the examination in order to appear for examination. In the event that the Archbishop fails to appear, the Committee shall proceed to his place of residence for the examination. Any new refusal on his part to submit to the examination, as certified by the Committee, shall constitute irrefutable evidence of his incompetence, and the Standing Holy Synod shall be obliged, without further formalities, to relieve him of his duties. The compensation of the members of the Committee shall be determined by the Standing Holy Synod and shall be paid, together with travel expenses, by the Church Property Management Organization.

6. The Committee's finding, provided it is unanimous, shall be binding upon the Standing Holy Synod, which, at its first regular meeting following the adoption of the finding and medical opinion, shall, by its decision, declare the throne vacant or determine that there are no grounds for relieving the Metropolitan of his duties. In the event of a non-unanimous decision, the President of the Committee shall convene the alternate medical members, and the Committee, thus supplemented, shall proceed without delay to re-examine the Archbishop. The finding of the new Committee shall in every case be binding upon the Standing Holy Synod. The decision of the Standing Holy Synod issued pursuant to the above shall be communicated without delay to the Metropolitan concerned and to the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, who shall be obliged within ten (10) days to initiate the issuance of a Presidential Decree relieving the Metropolitan of his duties.
7. Metropolitans of the Church of Greece retiring pursuant to the provisions of this article shall receive from the Church Property Management Organization a monthly allowance equal to the monthly benefit, including any supplements, granted to serving Archbishops.
8. The Standing Holy Synod, upon a reasoned proposal by its President, may, by a decision published in the Government Gazette, place a Metropolitan at the disposal of the Church of Greece for a period of six (6) months, provided that there are grounds relating to his person, the interests of the Church, public order, or social peace. The decision shall be issued after hearing the Metropolitan.

An acting administrator shall be appointed to the Metropolis in accordance with article 23, paragraph 1, and if the Metropolitan placed at the disposal of the Church is also the Synodical, he shall be replaced in accordance with article 8, paragraph 2 of the present law. Metropolitans placed at the disposal of the Church shall neither participate in the Synod of the Hierarchy nor be summoned to serve as Synod members, and shall receive two-thirds (2/3) of the salary of a serving Metropolitan. After a six-month period, the Standing Holy Synod may decide on their permanent removal from the Metropolitan See. Those removed shall be considered retired and shall receive the aforementioned remuneration. (Addition to paragraph 8 of article 15 of law 1351/1983, Government Gazette A' 56.)

CHAPTER I ON METROPOLITAN COUNCILS

Article 35

1. A Metropolitan Council shall be established in the Archdiocese of Athens and in every Metropolis. The Metropolitan Council shall consist of nine (9) members, namely:
 - a) The competent Bishop or his lawful deputy as President,
 - b) A Judge of the Court of First Instance of the Metropolis' seat, appointed along with an alternate in accordance with the applicable provisions,
 - c) The Public Treasurer of the Metropolis' seat, or his lawful alternate,
 - d) Two clergy members elected by secret ballot, with an equal number of alternates, from among all clergy of the relevant Metropolis' region,
 - e) Four lay members elected by secret ballot, with an equal number of alternates, from among all lay members of the Ecclesiastical Councils of the respective Metropolis. In particular, the elected members of the Metropolitan Councils of the Archdiocese of Athens and the Metropolises of Piraeus and Thessaloniki shall be elected by an electoral body consisting of one member from among the elected lay members of each Ecclesiastical Council of those Metropolises who is nominated along with an alternate by the elected regular lay members of the respective Ecclesiastical Council.

The alternate members shall participate whenever the regular members are absent, unavailable or unable to serve.

2. In the seats of the Metropolises where there is no Court of First Instance or a Public Treasury, the Metropolitan Council shall include:
 - a) in place of the First Instance Judge, the Head of the Magistrates' Court of the district concerned, or his lawful deputy,
 - b) in place of the Public Treasurer, another public official serving at the seat of the Metropolis, who, along with an alternate, shall be appointed by the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs.

In Metropolis seats where there are more than one Public Treasury Offices, the member of the Metropolitan Council shall be designated by the Minister of Finance.

3. The term of office of the members of the Metropolitan Council referred to in points (b), (d), and (e) of paragraph 1 shall be three (3) years.
4. The Metropolitan Council shall be constituted by an act of the competent Metropolitan, which shall be published. Should no such act of constitution be issued within twenty (20) days from the election of the elected members, the Metropolitan Council shall be constituted by a decision of the President of the Administrative Court of First Instance having jurisdiction at the seat of the Metropolis, or, where the seat of the Metropolis is not the seat of an Administrative Court of First Instance, by decision of the President of the Administrative Court of First Instance of the seat of the competent Administrative Court of Appeal.
5. In addition to the powers conferred upon them by the provisions in force, Metropolitan Councils shall be responsible for the administration, management, and utilization of the property of the legal entity of the Metropolis, as well as of the property of the holy shrines within the territorial jurisdiction of the respective Metropolis.

By Presidential Decree(s) issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, following the opinion of the Standing Holy Synod, the administration and management of the holy shrines situated within the jurisdiction of the Church of Greece may be determined in a more appropriate manner, regardless of their existing legal form and status. The application of these provisions shall not affect the validity of Law 349/1976 and the article 84 of Law 1416/1984, as well as the regulatory acts and decisions issued pursuant thereto.

By decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, published in the Government Gazette, additional competences may be assigned to the Metropolitan Councils; (replacement of article 35 by paragraph 6 of article 8 of Law 1700/ May 5-6,1987, Government Gazette A' 61.)

CHAPTER J ON PARISH ORGANIZATION

Article 36

1. The Parish, together with its parish church, being the basic unit of ecclesiastical organization and life, shall, as more specifically defined in article 1, paragraph 4 of the present Law, constitute a Legal Person under Public Law.
2. A parish shall be established by Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, at the request of at least half of the number of families required for the establishment of a parish under the applicable provisions, following the consent of the competent Metropolitan Council and the opinion of the competent Municipal or Community Council, provided within one (1) month from the submission of the

relevant application, although the issuance of the decree shall not be prevented by the expiration of this deadline.

3. The boundaries of each parish shall be determined by the competent Metropolitan Council.
4. The center of the parish's general ecclesiastical life shall be the parish church, as designated by a decision of the competent Metropolitan Council.
5. A parish may be abolished or merged with another neighboring parish by Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs following the consent of the competent Metropolitan Council, only where the number of families residing within the parish falls below the number required for the submission of an application for its establishment, with the exception of border villages, in which the abolition or merger of parishes shall not be permitted.
6. Matters concerning the establishment of financial resources, the administration, management, and general operation of holy churches (parish churches or not), the execution of ecclesiastical works, the construction of churches and their buildings, as well as the establishment, composition, powers, and general operation of fundraising committees, shall be determined by regulatory decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette, insofar as they are not regulated by the present Law. Similar decisions shall also determine the general operation of parishes.

Article 37

1. The Parish Priest shall be responsible for the liturgical and spiritual life of the parishioners and for every matter relating to the spiritual and material progress of the parish.
2. Vacant permanent parish priest positions shall be filled on a permanent basis by married presbyters and, on a temporary basis, by unmarried clerics, in accordance with specific provisions set forth in regulatory decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette.
3. Married parish priests who have served on a temporary basis in the same permanent parish priest position for a period exceeding five (5) years shall automatically become permanent.
4. The secondment of a permanent parish priest to another vacant permanent position shall not be extended beyond three (3) months, either continuously or cumulatively within the same calendar year, except upon his request or with his consent.
5. Parish Priests may retire from service upon their request after reaching the age of seventy (70) years, and prior to that for reasons of inability to perform their parish duties due to physical or mental illness, certified in accordance with the provisions applicable to civil servants, with an opinion initiated either upon their request or by the competent Archbishop.
6. A parish priest shall be entitled to one (1) month of paid annual leave per year, which shall in all cases be taken within the same calendar year, and its grant shall be mandatory.
7. A permanent parish priest may be transferred:
 - a) Upon his request,
 - b) By decision of the Standing Holy Synod, following a reasoned proposal by the competent Archbishop with the total number of such transfers in each Metropolis not exceeding three (3) per year and, in the case of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens, ten (10) per year,
 - c) Due to a penalty imposed by a final decision of the Synodal Court, in accordance with the specific provisions of the Law on ecclesiastical Courts.
8. The Ecclesiastical Council shall be presided over preferably by the most qualified permanent parish priest of the parish, appointed by the competent Metropolitan.

9. A presbyter or deacon wishing to pursue studies at one of the Theological Schools of the Universities in the country shall first request permission from the competent Archbishop, which shall be granted as of right for the duration of the studies and, in any case, not exceeding four (4) years, serving, during that period, to the extent possible, the needs of his parish, and may not be appointed to another Metropolis for the duration of his studies.

Article 38

1. Matters relating to the remuneration of parish priests and deacons shall be governed by the provisions in force at the time.
2. Matters relating to the qualifications, the election and installation process of parish priests and deacons, their transfers and secondments, their training, duties, and rights shall be regulated by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette, unless regulated by the provisions of this law.

Matters relating to the general service status of cantors and sextons shall be regulated by similar decisions.

CHAPTER K ON HOLY MONASTERIES

Article 39

1. A Holy Monastery is a religious institution for the spiritual practice of the men or women residing therein, in accordance with the monastic vows and the sacred Canons and traditions of the Orthodox Church concerning monastic life.
2. Within the Church of Greece, there are Holy Monasteries operating under the spiritual supervision of the local Archbishop, as well as Synodical Stavropegic Holy Monasteries operating under the spiritual supervision of the Standing Holy Synod.
3. The establishment of new Monasteries and the dissolution or merger of existing Monasteries of the Church of Greece shall be effected by Presidential Decree issued, following the consent of the local Archbishop and the approval of the Standing Holy Synod, upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs. The churches of dissolved or dissolving Monasteries shall remain the property of the legal entity of the respective Holy Metropolis.
4. Matters concerning the organization and promotion of the spiritual life and the administration of the Monastery shall be determined by the Council of Abbots, in accordance with the Sacred Canons, monastic traditions, and the laws of the State, through internal regulations published in the bulletin 'Church'.
5. The Abbot and the members of the Abbots Council, whose number shall be determined in proportion to the number of monks of each Monastery by the internal regulations, shall be elected by the monastic community, provided that the Monastery has at least five (5) resident monks; otherwise, they shall be appointed by the local Archbishop. The Abbot elected shall serve for life, subject to the provisions of the law on ecclesiastical Courts.
The Standing Holy Synod may, by a reasoned decision and upon the proposal of the competent Archbishop or the monastic community, approve the holding of a new election to appoint an Abbot.
6. The Metropolitan shall exercise spiritual supervision over the Holy Monasteries of his province in accordance with the Sacred Canons, including the canonical commemoration of his name during the sacred services, the installation of the Abbot, the approval of the tonsure

of the monks, the investigation of canonical offences, the care for the operation of Monastery in accordance with the Sacred Canon, and the supervision of the legality of its financial management.

7. Monastery dependencies of the Eastern Orthodox Church that belong to the jurisdiction of the Church of Greece shall be established with the permission of the local Archbishop and shall operate under the spiritual supervision of the competent Metropolitan; If they do not belong to another diocese, they shall be established with the permission of the State, granted by joint decision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Education and Religious Affairs, issued with the consent of the local Archbishop and the approval of the Standing Holy Synod and shall operate under its supervision, exercised by the local Archbishop, with the provisions in force for the Monasteries within the jurisdiction of the Church of Greece.

8. The Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries of Vlatadon in Thessaloniki and Saint Anastasia Farmakolytria in Chalkidiki, which belong to the Ecumenical Patriarchate along with all their movable and immovable property shall be exempt from the supervision of the local Archbishop; these Monasteries shall remain under the direct spiritual authority and administration of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be governed by the Patriarchal regime in force since time immemorial, and shall commemorate the name of the Ecumenical Patriarch in accordance with canonical order.

Likewise, the dependency of the Holy Sepulcher and the Holy Monastery of Sinai are excluded.

9. Churches, with or without monastic communities, located within the territory of the Church of Greece but not subject to its spiritual jurisdiction, may, by a gracious act of their owners, become dependencies of the Holy Monasteries of the ancient patriarchal sees and the Holy Monastery of Sinai, with the consent of the recipient Monastery and the approval of the local Archbishop and the Standing Holy Synod, excluding Bishops' residence therein.

The aforementioned act of donation shall determine the conditions and terms, as well as the manner of administration and operation of the said dependencies.

10. Regulatory decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette, shall establish the framework for the operation of Orthodox Monasteries within the territory of the Church of Greece, which shall be founded as legal entities under private law in accordance with the applicable provisions and shall operate on the basis of their founding regulations.

CHAPTER L

ON THE APOSTOLIKI DIAKONIA AND THE INTER-ORTHODOX CENTER OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

Article 40

1. The Apostoliki Diakonia of the Church of Greece, operating under the supervision and control of the Standing Holy Synod, shall be responsible for the planning, organization, and implementation of the Church's entire missionary, and educational work.
2. Matters relating to the powers, administration, and general operation of the Apostoliki Diakonia of the Church of Greece, as well as its relations with the Synodical Committees and related services, shall be determined, upon the proposal of the Standing Holy Synod, by Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs mandatorily within two (2) months from the date of the proposal of the Standing Holy Synod.

Article 41

1. A Legal entity under public law is hereby established under the name "Inter-Orthodox Center of the Church of Greece", having its seat in Athens and operating under the

supervision and control of the Standing Holy Synod; its purpose shall be the promotion of inter-Orthodox and inter-Christian relations of the Church of Greece, as well as the support of its missionary activity abroad.

2. The missionary activity of the Church of Greece abroad shall always be carried out in consultation with the ecclesiastical authority of the canonical territory concerned.
3. Matters relating to the competences, organization, administration, and general operation of the Inter-Orthodox Center shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER M ON THE PERSONNEL OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

Article 42

1. The Church of Greece shall employ both salaried and unsalaried personnel to carry out its work in all types of ministry. Such personnel, with the exception of parish priests and deacons, shall be paid by the respective legal entities of the Church of Greece.
2. The qualifications, the procedures for appointment, promotion, transfer, reassignment, and the granting of all types of leave, disciplinary proceedings and the rewarding of moral awards, matters concerning positions, as well as any other issue concerning the general service status of the personnel of the Church of Greece, the Holy Metropolises, the Holy Parish Churches of the Church Property Management Organization, the Apostoliki Diakonia, the Inter-Orthodox Center, the Holy Monasteries, and any other ecclesiastical legal entity under public law, including the clergy social security organizations, subject to the provisions of article 38 of the present law, shall be regulated, by analogy with the provisions of the Code of civil servants, as applied to employees of legal entities under public law, by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod published in the Government Gazette. By similar decisions, the remuneration of the aforementioned personnel shall be determined in accordance with the provisions applicable to civil servants. In cases where administrative or ecclesiastical duties are assigned to a cleric holding episcopal rank, the present Law shall not grant legislative authority to establish a corresponding permanent position of Assistant Bishop, Titular Bishop, or Titular Metropolitan.
3. The provisions in force governing the social security and pension regime of the permanent employees of Church Property Management Organization and the Holy Synod shall remain unaffected by the present Law.
4. By decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece and published in the Government Gazette, the operating and administrative structures of the ecclesiastical legal entities referred to in paragraph 2 shall be established, as well as the composition, formation and operation of these administrative councils, unless otherwise provided herein; any contrary provision shall be repealed.
5. A Supreme Ecclesiastical Council is hereby established. Its powers (advisory or decision-making) in matters referred to in the two preceding paragraphs, shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod approved by the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece and published in the Government Gazette. By similar decisions, the mode of operation and the general organization and composition of the Supreme Ecclesiastical Council, which shall mandatorily include a judge of the Council of State holding at least the rank of Associate Judge, shall be determined, as well as the remuneration of its members. Any regulatory decision issued pursuant to the preceding paragraphs shall be null and void unless it has first been reviewed by the Supreme Ecclesiastical Council.
6. Clerics holding a parish priest's or deacon's position may also hold a position as an employee of the Holy Synod of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens, and the other Holy Metropolises, and vice versa, provided they possess the qualifications required by the applicable provisions for

appointment to such positions, with the exception of the age requirement. The same shall apply to temporary parish priests. Those holding a second position as described above shall also receive two-thirds (2/3) of the salary of the lower-paid position.

CHAPTER N ON ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION

1. The Church of Greece may establish special training schools and institutes for the specialized training and education of clergy and candidates for ordination. Matters concerning their establishment, organization, and operation, as well as their personnel shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod published in the Government Gazette. Ecclesiastical Education matters shall be governed by the provisions in force.
2. The ecclesiastical Schools operating within the administrative jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Greek State, namely in Mount Athos, Crete and the Dodecanese, as well as in its Stavropegic Monasteries, shall be under the spiritual supervision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, exercised by its local legal representatives.
3. The Church of Greece may award scholarships. The conditions and the general procedure for their granting shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod published in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER O ON ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS

Article 44

1. Misconduct by clergy and monks relating to the duties and professions of their faith, which entails canonical penalties, shall be adjudicated by the ecclesiastical courts.
A special law shall regulate the establishment, composition, jurisdiction and operation of these courts; until such law is enacted, Law No. 5583/1932, "On ecclesiastical courts and the proceedings before them", shall remain in force.
2. The right of appeal to the Ecumenical Patriarch against final decisions imposing a penalty of suspension, deposition from the throne, or defrocking, which is granted by clause VI of the Patriarchal and Synodical Act of September 4, 1928 to the Metropolitans of the New Lands, shall also be granted to the Metropolitans of the Autocephalous Church of Greece. The appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from service of the conviction decision by submitting a written petition to the Secretary of the court that issued the decision, who shall notify the President of the Standing Holy Synod of this on the same day, who shall be required to forward the case file to the Ecumenical Patriarchate within thirty (30) days. The deadline for filing an appeal and the filing of the appeal itself shall not have suspensive effect; however, proceedings to fill the throne may not be initiated until one (1) year has elapsed from the date the case file was forwarded.

CHAPTER P ON ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS

Article 45

1. Churches, sacred vessels used in worship, vestments, liturgical books and icons shall constitute sacred, consecrated or sanctified objects, and the provisions of articles 966 and 971 of the Civil Code shall apply to them.

2. Any person who sells, purchases a sacred object as described above, or who donates such an object or provides a security interest in it, shall be punished by imprisonment for at least one (1) year.
3. The transfer of a sacred object to a museum without the proper authorization of the competent Archbishop shall be punishable by imprisonment for two (2) to six (6) months, and the ecclesiastical authority shall be obligated to demand its return.
4. The procedures for the sale of valuable votive offerings shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece and published in the Government Gazette.
5. By decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece and published in the Government Gazette, ecclesiastical museums may be established in the Holy Metropolises, upon the proposal of the competent Metropolitan, for the cataloging, safekeeping and conservation of relics, sacred icons, and other works of ecclesiastical art.

CHAPTER Q ON ECCLESIASTICAL PROPERTY

Article 46

1. The resources necessary for the performance of the work of the Church of Greece shall derive from the income of its own property, the voluntary contributions of its members, and State subsidies.
2. The manner of administration, management and general utilization of ecclesiastical property, namely monastic property, whether preserved or non-preserved, metropolitan property, parish property, and property belonging to other ecclesiastical legal entities under public law, shall be determined by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece and published in the Government Gazette, in accordance with the sacred canons and the laws of the State.
3. By special law, upon the recommendation of the Standing Holy Synod, public limited companies or limited liability companies may be established for the general utilization of ecclesiastical property.
4. The management acts of the assets referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this article shall be subject to financial audit conducted by Public Administration Inspectors appointed by joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and National Education and Religious Affairs. The companies established pursuant to the preceding paragraph shall also be subject to this audit, in addition to the audits provided for them under the applicable legislation.
5. The Church Property Management and Administration Organization shall henceforth bear the name "Church Property Management Organization". Operating under the supervision and control of the Standing Holy Synod, it shall administer and manage the monastic property to be sold, in respect of which it is authorized to act both as principal and agent. The same Organization shall also provide opinions and advice on matters concerning the utilization of all ecclesiastical property to ensure the material means for the realization of the spiritual, social and charitable purposes of the Church.

Article 47

1. Church-owned real estate on which buildings have been constructed and are used as offices of Metropolises or parish churches, residences of Archbishops or parish priests, or which directly or indirectly serve the charitable or educational purposes of the Church of Greece or

its legal entities, may be sold for the obvious benefit of the Church, following a decision of the Standing Holy Synod issued upon the proposal of the competent Archbishop.

2. For the construction or repair of Metropolitan mansions, holy Monasteries and Holy Churches, along with their associated buildings, the relevant permit shall be granted by Church Property Management Organization upon approval of the relevant plans by its competent Technical Service, following an opinion of its Works Committee and the locally competent Committee for Urban Planning and Architectural Control of the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works. The local City Planning Offices shall have jurisdiction only over the compliance with building regulations.

(The provision in < > was added by paragraph 7 of article 29 of Law No. 1577/1985 (Government Gazette A' 210), and pursuant to article 35 of that Law, the above provision took effect two months after its publication in the Government Gazette.)

(Pursuant to article 1 of Regulation 66/April 1-6, 1993 (Government Gazette A' 47) of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, the jurisdiction of the Technical Service of the Church, following the abolition of the Church Property Management Organization, has been transferred to and exercised by the Office of Church Architecture, operating under the Holy Synod.)

3. For the purposes referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, the free transfer of monastic or, in general, other ecclesiastical properties, as well as municipal and community properties, shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions in force.
4. The Archdiocese of Athens, the Metropolises, and the Ecclesiastical Legal Entities under Public Law shall enjoy the benefit provided for in article 118 of the Introductory Law to the Civil Code, to the extent specified therein.

Article 48

1. Any transfers of assets, movable or immovable, between the legal entities referred to in paragraph 4, article 1 of this law, with the exception of the Church Property Management Organization and the Clergy Insurance Fund, and shall be subject to the same tax treatment as those involving the State.
2. All types of goods sent or granted from abroad free of charge and without exchange formalities to the entities referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be exempt from all customs duties, taxes and charges levied upon their importation at customs.

(For the gradual abolition of customs exemptions for Holy Churches, Metropolises, and Monasteries, for goods imported from third countries into the European Economic Community (EEC), see article 8082 of Law 1402/1983 (Government Gazette A' 167).)

(Pursuant to paragraph 9 of article 28 of Law 1473/1984 (Government Gazette A' 127), the provisions of paragraph 2 above, as amended by article 29 of Law 1326/1983, shall also apply to the holy monasteries of Mount Athos.)

CHAPTER R ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Article 49

1. The marriage ceremony shall be performed only after prior written permission has been granted by the Archbishop of the place where the ceremony is to be held or by his delegate representative. For such permission, a prior written declaration from the prospective spouses shall be required, stating that no impediment, whether suspensive or diriment, exists. The procedure for granting a marriage license shall be determined by regulatory decisions of the Standing Holy Synod in accordance with current legislation.

2. Any priest who performs a marriage without episcopal permission shall be subject, in addition to the canonical penalties imposed upon him by the ecclesiastical courts, to a prison sentence of up to one (1) year.
3. A betrothal ceremony performed separately from the sacrament of marriage is prohibited and shall be declared spiritually null and void by the local Archbishop in the place where it was performed.
The priest who performed the ceremony shall be subject to a suspension of up to one (1) year, and a reduction of half his salary, as well as imprisonment for up to one (1) year.
4. Matters relating to marriage shall fall under the jurisdiction of the civil courts for civil matters and under the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Authorities for religious matters.

Article 50

1. In the event of a divorce, the proceedings during the attempt at reconciliation before the Bishop shall be governed by article 593 et seq. of the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. Once the court decision annulling the marriage or dissolving it by divorce becomes final, the Prosecutor at the court that issued the final decision shall, upon the request of a party with a legal interest, give a copy thereof to the Archbishop who issued the marriage license, who shall then be required to annul or dissolve the marriage spiritually as well. In the event that the marriage license was issued abroad, the final decision of the domestic court annulling or dissolving the marriage shall be served, as provided above, on the Archbishop in whose area the court issuing such decision is located, who shall be required to annul or spiritually dissolve the marriage. The decision concerning the annulment or dissolution of the marriage shall be communicated to the Archbishop who issued the license for the marriage to be performed abroad.

CHAPTER 5 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 51

1. The Church of Greece shall be represented by the Standing Holy Synod and, before administrative and judicial authorities, by its President or by a member authorized in writing by the President for that purpose.
2. The oath of the Code of Civil Procedure shall be administered, if required:
 - a) To the Church of Greece, by the Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod or his lawful deputy,
 - b) In the Archdiocese and the Metropolises, by their Protosyncelos and, in his absence or impediment, by the General Episcopal Vicar or by another cleric of the respective Metropolis designated by the competent Metropolitan,
 - c) In the Monastery, by its Abbot and, in his impediment, by a member of the Monastic Council designated by such Council or, in the absence thereof, by a person appointed by the competent Metropolitan,
 - d) In Parishes and Parish Churches, by the President of the Ecclesiastical Council or by a lay member designated by him,
 - e) In all Ecclesiastical Legal Entities under Public and Private Law, by the person designated by their internal regulations and, in the absence of such a provision therein, by the person appointed by their administration.

Article 52

1. Wherever the term "serving Metropolitan" or "serving Archbishop" is used in this law, it shall refer to the Archbishop who is currently in charge of the Metropolis.

2. Wherever the term “Archbishop” is used in this law, it shall refer to the Archbishop of Athens and all serving Metropolitans. Wherever the term “Metropolis” is used, it shall also include the Archdiocese of Athens.

Article 53

1. The Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and the Standing Holy Synod, the Archbishop, and the serving Metropolitans of the Church of Greece shall correspond with all political authorities outside the State through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Correspondence of ecclesiastical legal entities shall be conducted by the person exercising their administration or by his lawful deputy.
2. The Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and the Standing Holy Synod shall enjoy, in the exercise of their powers, the protection provided for in article 181 of the Penal Code. The Archbishop and the serving Metropolitans enjoy the same protection in the exercise of their duties with respect to offences committed through the press.

Article 54

1. Those who do not hold or have lost the status of clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church may not wear the vestments or attire of the clergy of that Church, as defined by the Decree of January 2, 1931 < on the canonical attire of the Greek Orthodox Clergy>, as well as the distinctive insignia established by the Decree of June 1, 1856.
2. Monks who are not Orthodox may not wear the vestments of monks belonging to the Eastern Orthodox Church.
3. Those who violate the provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with article 176 of the Penal Code, under which a monk shall also be considered a religious minister.

Article 55

1. Any cleric having a complaint against his local Archbishop may submit a petition to the Standing Holy Synod. The petition shall be delivered to the competent Archbishop, who must forward it to the Standing Holy Synod within fifteen (15) days together with a relevant report.
2. In the event that the relevant Archbishop fails to forward the complaint submitted to him as described above to the Standing Holy Synod within the time limit specified above, the cleric submitting the petition shall be entitled to submit a copy directly to the Standing Holy Synod.
3. Any layperson having a reasonable complaint against an ecclesiastical authority shall be entitled to report it to the Standing Holy Synod, which, prior to taking any action, shall request the competent Archbishop to provide information on the matter within one (1) month. If the complaint is directed against a cleric, it shall be forwarded by the Standing Holy Synod to the competent Archbishop, who shall be obliged to take the necessary action.

Article 56

1. Archbishops may leave the country with the permission of the Standing Holy Synod, while all other clerics and monks may do so with the permission of their competent Archbishop.
2. Clerics traveling abroad shall be issued passports by the competent authority with the approval of the competent ecclesiastical authority. In the event of their departure from

the territory of the State, it shall be required that, upon passport control by the competent authority, the cleric holding the passport also presents the permission of the competent ecclesiastical authority for the departure.

3. A cleric of any rank or a monk of the Eastern Orthodox Church intending to move outside the boundaries of his ecclesiastical jurisdiction must obtain permission only from his superior authority; in order to remain in another ecclesiastical jurisdiction for more than two (2) months within the same calendar year, whether continuously or intermittently, he must also obtain permission from the local Metropolitan.
4. If a monk, not registered in a monastery, wanders in the world, he is ordered by the local Archbishop to settle in a monastery, in whose register he shall be enrolled; should he refuse to comply, he shall be brought to trial and may be temporarily confined to the clerical prison or to a monastery.
5. No cleric registered in the monastic register of a monastery of Mount Athos shall be appointed to any ecclesiastical position without the permission of his monastery and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The same shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to clerics of any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction.
6. It is prohibited, on pain of nullity, to issue a letter of dismissal for a cleric or monk without the prior written consent of the Archbishop of the place where the cleric is to be assigned; in the case of a monk, such issuance shall additionally require a canonical certification confirming his intended registration in the monastic register of the monastery in which he is to be enrolled.

Article 57

1. The pre-trial detention of a cleric or monk, when ordered pursuant to the provisions of general criminal procedure, may be carried out in a special correctional institution for clerics, with the necessary prison staff provided by the Ministry of Justice.
2. Custodial sentences imposed on clerics or monks by decisions of the ordinary criminal courts, provided the conviction does not entail, in the case of clerics, the penalty of defrocking, shall be served in the special correctional institution for clerics. In the case of a custodial sentence of less than one (1) month, the Archbishop may, and where the sentence has been imposed on an Archbishop, the Standing Holy Synod, may designate another place for imprisonment with the consent of the competent Public Prosecutor.
3. Any criminal prosecution against a cleric, as well as any judgment or ruling issued thereon, shall be immediately communicated to the ecclesiastical authority to which the cleric is subject by the prosecuting Public Prosecutor or the clerk of the judicial council issuing the ruling or the criminal court issued the judgment.
4. No permission of the competent ecclesiastical authority shall be required in the case of an application for judicial protection filed before any civil court by a cleric.
5. By Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, the special correctional institution for clerics referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, as well as the rules of its operation, shall be determined.

Article 58

The Standing Holy Synod may, from time to time, confer upon Metropolitans who have retired from active service in any matter, and with their consent, the title of a Diocese or Metropolis that has once flourished.

Article 59

1. The administration and management of the Holy Pilgrimage Shrines situated within the jurisdiction of the Church of Greece shall be determined, in accordance with their established status, regardless of their previous legal form and status, for public worship, by decisions of the Standing Holy Synod, approved by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy and published in the Government Gazette.
2. The respective Metropolitans shall serve, *ex officio*, as Presidents of Ecclesiastical Institutions, as well as of the Holy Pilgrimage Shrines referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 60

1. Parish Priests and Deacons of the Church of Greece may be seconded to Orthodox churches abroad, as well as to missionary territories of Orthodox Churches, for a period of up to two (2) years, with full remuneration. The aforementioned decision shall be made by the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece at the request of the cleric desiring it and with the consent and recommendation of both the hierarch to whom he organically belongs and the hierarch of the Metropolis to which he wishes to be seconded.
2. Through the same procedure, the secondment of Parish Priests and Deacons of the Church of Greece, with full remuneration, shall be permitted to the Holy Monasteries of Mount Athos, the Brotherhood of the Holy Sepulcher, and Mount Sinai.
3. The duration of the aforementioned decisions may be renewed from time to time through the same procedure described above.

Article 61

1. By Presidential Decree(s) issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, following the opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education attached to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, specialized schools may be established at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and at the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine of Sinai.
2. By similar Presidential Decrees, matters concerning their administrative organization and operation, the qualifications required for admission, the detailed curriculum and timetable, as well as the rights conferred by the diploma awarded by such schools, shall be determined.
3. To cover the expenses arising from their establishment and operation, a credit shall be entered in the State Budget of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, which shall be transferred to the said schools in the form of a grant by decision of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs.
4. Graduates of the Departments of Pastoral Training at the Theological Schools of the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki may enroll directly in the third year of study of the Pastoral Departments of the aforementioned schools.

Article 62

1. Ecclesiastical buildings intended for the offices of Metropolises or Parishes, or for residences of Archbishops or Parish Priests, erected or acquired through contributions from monasteries and churches, public collections, or special taxes and registered in the name of natural or legal entities other than the State, shall be compulsorily transferred to the relevant legal entity of the Metropolis or Parish by means of a simple declaration before a notary public, drafted and transcribed free of charge. The same shall apply to the buildings of the Holy Synod, the other autonomous Synodical Services, and the Archdiocese of Athens.

2. The provisions of articles 4 and 23 of Emergency Law 1539/1938, <On the Protection of Public Property>, as subsequently amended and supplemented, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the properties belonging to the legal entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 4 of the present Law.

Article 63

The Board of Directors of the Clergy Insurance Fund shall consist, as from the entry into force of the present Law, of seven (7) members as follows:

- a) The Archbishop of Athens as President, to be replaced by the senior-ranking Archbishop among the members of the Standing Holy Synod,
- b) A Synodical Archbishop, along with his alternate by the Standing Holy Synod,
- c) Four regular parish priests, along with their alternates by the Holy Association of Clergy of Greece, and
- d) One layperson, graduate of a university with a degree in economics, appointed in the same manner along with his or her alternate by the Holy Association of Clergy of Greece.

The act constituting the aforesaid Board shall be issued by the Standing Holy Synod at the beginning of each term, and its term shall be two (2) years, except for the Synodical Archbishop, whose term of office shall be one (1) year.

Article 64

1. Appointed Parish Priests may count towards their service as parish priests all periods of service and any prior experience under public-law, whether with the State, local government authorities, or any legal entity under public law, whether ecclesiastical or not, as well as service rendered in the capacity of a regular preacher.
2. Clerics of any rank serving as regular preachers or in positions of ecclesiastical employees in the offices of the Holy Synod, the Holy Archdiocese of Athens, the other Holy Metropolises, any ecclesiastical legal entity under public law, or the Clergy Insurance Fund, under a public-law relationship, shall be entitled to count towards such service, for all purposes, any prior service as a regular or temporary parish priest or deacon, whenever such service was rendered, as well as service rendered in the capacity of a regular preacher, provided that such service does not overlap with another recognized period.
3. Paragraph 1 of article 1 of Law 401/1976 on "Reclassification of Theology graduates serving as parish priest" is hereby replaced, effective immediately, as follows: Parish Priests subject to the provisions of emergency law 536/1945 "on the regulation of the remuneration of the Orthodox Parish Clergy of Greece, the method of payment thereof and the coverage of the related expenses", who have obtained or shall obtain a degree from a Theological School of a university in Greece, or the Theological School of Halki, or another recognized equivalent Orthodox Theological School, or a degree from a Higher Education Institution, shall be reclassified in the first salary grade to which they belong, by decision of the competent Metropolitan Council to a salary corresponding to the total length of their service, which may not exceed the third salary grade.

Article 65

1. The Church of Greece hereby establishes, as a moral reward to be awarded to Greek and foreign nationals for outstanding service or creative ecclesiastical activity, an honorary distinction accompanied by a diploma and the relevant insignia, bearing the title "Medal of the Apostle Paul" in three distinct classes.

2. The general form of the said medal, the type of the diploma, and the manner of its conferment shall be determined by decision of the Standing Holy Synod.

Article 66

1. The Panhellenic Holy Foundation of the Annunciation of Tinos is exempt from the provisions of this law concerning ecclesiastical institutions and holy shrines, which shall continue to be governed by the provisions of Law 349/1976, "on the Administration of the Panhellenic Holy Foundation of the Annunciation of Tinos."
2. Paragraph 1 of article 2 of Law 349/1976 is hereby replaced, as follows: "This Foundation shall be administered by a ten-member Administrative Committee, chaired by the local Metropolitan, and comprising the following members: a) six (6) persons elected in accordance with the provisions set forth below, and b) the serving Magistrate, Headmaster of the High School, and Director of the Public Treasury of Tinos, provided they are Orthodox Christians; otherwise, their lawful deputies. In the absence or impediment of the President, the Vice-President shall act as a substitute, exercising all powers; in the absence or impediment of the Vice-President, the Secretary-General shall act as substitute. The Administrative Committee shall be convened mandatorily at the request of two-thirds (2/3) of its members.
3. In the cases of article 3, paragraph (c) and article 4, paragraph (θ), second subparagraph, and (i), (j), and (k) of the same law, the term "elected members" shall be used.
4. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of article 4 of the same Law is hereby replaced, as follows: "An election committee is hereby established, consisting of the President of the Court of First Instance of Siros or a judge of the Court of First Instance designated by him as Chair, and the tax collector of Tinos and the captain of the port of Tinos as members.
5. In paragraph (θ), first subparagraph, of the aforementioned article 4, the words "under items (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 of article 2 of the present Law" and the words "of the majority in the election for the appointment" are replaced by the words "of the Tinos Magistrates' Court".

CHAPTER T TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 67

Until the issuance of the Presidential Decrees or decisions of the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy or the Standing Holy Synod provided for by this Law, the provisions in force to date shall continue to apply. Regulatory decisions of the Holy Synod of Hierarchy or the Standing Holy Synod issued without valid legislative authorization or in excess thereof shall not be ratified in this law.

Article 68

The Titular Metropolitans, Titular Bishops, and Assistant Bishops shall retain all rights deriving from their status and shall exercise the duties of the office to which they have been appointed until their departure for any reason. Those elected without reference to a specific permanent position shall be assigned, with the consent of a Metropolitan, the duties of an Assistant Bishop or a special task determined by the Standing Holy Synod.

Article 69

1. The list of those eligible for Episcopal election, drawn up by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy in March 1974, as supplemented by the decision of the Standing Holy Synod of July 28, 1976, is hereby ratified as supplemented.

2. Regarding those proposed for inclusion in the list of candidates for Episcopal Election by the circular of the Standing Holy Synod No. 2121/10.7.1976, only the provisions of article 21 of this Law shall apply, without the need to repeat the relevant procedure.
3. Those registered prior to April 21, 1967 in the list of candidates for Episcopal Election who are not included in the list ratified under paragraph 1 shall be deemed, as from the entry into force of this Law, to be included in this list.

Article 70

The effective date for the application of paragraph 1 of article 6 of this Law is set as October 1, 1977, provided that no extraordinary meeting of the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy has taken place prior to that date. In the latter case, the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy shall convene regularly on October 1, 1978.

Article 71

1. Within one (1) year of the entry into force of this Law, the Standing Holy Synod may decide to establish new Metropolises through the division of areas from existing Metropolises, provided that it has the consent of the competent Archbishops, expressed in writing within one (1) month of the delivery of the relevant invitation of the Standing Holy Synod to them, specifying, within the limits of such consent, the seat, the name, and territorial jurisdiction of these. The invitation shall be addressed to all serving Archbishops. These Metropolises shall be established by Presidential Decrees issued upon the proposal of the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs.
2. The filling of these Metropolises shall be carried out by the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy, convened extraordinarily in accordance with its governing provisions and as specifically provided in this article, during a single session, due to the removal in any manner from their seats from April 21, 1967 to July 24, 1974, and these shall be abolished following the departure, for any reason, from active service of either the Metropolitan who granted consent for the temporary transfer or the person taking over the temporary Metropolis. In the first case, the Metropolitan of the temporarily established Metropolis shall automatically be reinstated as Metropolitan of the original unified Metropolis.
3. Election shall be conducted by secret ballot, and the candidate obtaining an absolute majority of the total number of serving Metropolitans shall be deemed elected. A blank vote shall be considered a negative vote.
4. The true meaning of article 17, paragraph 2 of Law 671/1943 is that the filling of the Metropolises referred to in this provision may also be effected by a decision of the Standing Holy Synod.

Article 72

Members of the Synodical Committees appointed at the time this Law enters into force shall remain in office until the end of their term.

Article 73

By regulatory decision of the Standing Holy Synod, published in the Government Gazette, the regulatory provision 38/15.1.1973 (Government Gazette 30/73/A'), ratified by Legislative Decree 1382/73, may be repealed or amended.

Article 74

Upon the entry into force of this Law, Law 671/1943 and Legislative Decree 87/1974 are hereby repealed in their entirety, subject to the provision of article 9 thereof; the repealed Legislative Decree 126/69 shall not be revived, nor shall any general or specific provision, even if contained in a special law, which is contrary to the provisions of this Law, subject to articles 27 and 67 of this Law.

Article 75

This Law shall enter into force upon its publication in the Government Gazette.