



# Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015

## 2015 CHAPTER 18

### **1 Vacancies among the Lords Spiritual**

- (1) This section applies where—
  - (a) a vacancy arises among the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords in the 10 years beginning with the day on which this Act comes into force,
  - (b) at the time the vacancy arises there is at least one eligible bishop who is a woman, and
  - (c) the person who would otherwise be entitled to fill the vacancy under section 5 of the Bishops Act 1878 is a man.
- (2) If at the time the vacancy arises there is only one eligible bishop who is a woman, the vacancy is to be filled by the issue of writs of summons to her.
- (3) If at the time the vacancy arises there are two or more eligible bishops who are women, the vacancy is to be filled by the issue of writs of summons to the one whose election as a bishop of a diocese in England was confirmed first.
- (4) In this section “eligible bishop” means a bishop of a diocese in England who is not yet entitled in that capacity to the issue of writs of summons.
- (5) The reference in subsection (1) to a vacancy does not include a vacancy arising by the avoidance of the see of Canterbury, York, London, Durham or Winchester.