

*and continue the functions of a Separate Church and said fact is on careful consideration so determined by the Bishop of the Diocese, subject to appeal by the Vestry to the next annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese, then the Bishop of the Diocese may temporarily take over and administer the affairs of the Parish or Separate Congregation upon obtaining for its use and benefit sufficient missionary financial support to continue its functions and to exercise such supervision and control until the Parish or Separate Congregation again becomes self-supporting or until its property is otherwise disposed of, with the approval of a majority of the Vestry then in office or the majority of qualified voters of said Parish or Separate Congregation. And while said temporary supervision and control is being exercised the Vestry of the particular Church shall have no power to make new contracts or engagements or in any way bind the property of the said Parish or Separate Congregation.*

291W. *Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impair or prejudicially affect any rights, privileges, powers, duties or obligations of any Vestry of the Parishes or Separate Congregations heretofore created and existing prior to the effective date of the Maryland Constitution of 1851; nor in any way to impair the title to validly acquired ownership of property of any Vestry, however or whenever heretofore incorporated, nor shall this Act in any way prejudice or affect the similar powers and property rights or corporate activities of any Separate Congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland heretofore formed under the General Religious Corporation Law of the State; nor those of any Separate Congregation heretofore formed or created under any special Act of Assembly of the State of Maryland.*

*But nevertheless the Vestry of any such Parish or Separate Congregation whether heretofore formed under the Vestry Act of 1798, Chapter 24, prior to the effective date of the Maryland Constitution of 1851, or of any Separate Congregation formed under the General Religious Corporation Law of the State or of any separate Act of Assembly of the State may upon its voluntary acceptance of the terms and provisions of this Act elect to accept the provisions thereof and to be bound and governed by its provisions, upon the adoption of a resolution by a majority vote of the Vestry of such Parish or Separate Congregation approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the Parish or Separate Congregation at the next annual Parish or Church meeting of the Congregation held for said*