

312-O.

The vestry of every parish, and their successors, (by the name aforesaid,) shall be forever hereafter able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or other persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever; and that it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, forever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and the same, at the will and pleasure of them, and their successors, to change, alter, break and make anew, from time to time, as they shall think best.

312P.

It shall be lawful for the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State to divide or unite parishes, as occasion may require, and to alter their bounds, and to constitute new parishes; and vestrymen and churchwardens of such new parishes, shall be chosen as hereinbefore provided, and shall have perpetual succession, and be incorporated, by the name of the Vestry of such new parish, and such vestry and churchwardens shall have all the powers hereby granted in this act to other vestrymen and churchwardens; provided always, that a majority of the vestry of any parish, any part of which is proposed to be added to any new parish or parishes, or to be constituted into a new parish, shall consent thereto.

312Q.

Chapter 24 of the Acts of 1798 and all acts amending said Chapter 24, are hereby amended to the extent that said Chapter 24 of said Acts of 1798 and said amendments thereto shall hereafter be inapplicable to parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church—Diocese of Washington, in Charles, St. Mary's, Prince George's and Montgomery counties; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall affect the corporate existence of, or the validity of any proceedings heretofore taken by, or the title to any real or personal property belonging to, any corporation formed or organized or parish declared to be a corporation or organized under the provisions of said Chapter 24 of the Acts of 1798, as amended.

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If any provision, phrase, or clause of this subheading or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, phrases, clauses or applications of this subheading which can be given effect without the invalid provision, phrase, clause or application, and to this end the provisions, phrases, and clauses of this subheading are declared severable.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.*

Approved May 2, 1969.