

**45-32** (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)  
***Overture from the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes***

To amend *Rules for Assembly VII* by adding a section 7-5

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><b>7-4</b> All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p><i>There is currently no section 7-5</i></p>	<p><b>7-4</b> All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p><b>7-5</b> <u><i>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</i></u></p>

**Rationale:**

The *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-4. C.2). This addition would qualify the following statement from Rules 7-4: 'Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners,' ensuring that all overtures coming to the floor of the Assembly have first been reviewed by the appropriate presbytery."