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Reactions continue against effort to revise constitutional Art. 3 regarding Church-state relations

/ Επικαιρότητα



A second vote in Greece’s parliament over a revision of Article 3 of the country’s constitution – which delineates Church-state relations – is set for March 13.

Church sources that spoke to the Orthodoxia news agency after the first vote on Thursday afternoon referred to the possibility of initiatives by high-ranking ecclesiastical leaders and other Orthodox clergymen to lobby their local deputies – the ones that voted in favor of the revision – to change their vote in the second round.

The same sources nevertheless such a prospect is judged as extremely difficult.

The first vote for the revision of the specific article showed 150 MPs out of the 300 in Parliament in favor, meaning that it would not have passed. However, the final vote was 151 in favor. Beyond the first and second vote by the current Parliament

plenum, the next Parliament plenum that will arise after general elections must ratify the revision with an extended majority – 180 MPs – for the constitutional article to change.

According to reports, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Ieronymos is not expected to request the convening of the Holy Synod to discuss the matter, although he may reconsider if reactions by the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece’s Metropolitans (bishops) continue.