

Elijah Cummings, of Baltimore, to be Black Caucus chairman

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

ANNAPOLIS — Delegate **Elijah E. Cummings** (D, Baltimore), a freshman serving his second year, was elected yesterday to be the new chairman of the General Assembly's Black Caucus.

Mr. Cummings, 33, beat out three-term veteran Delegate Nathaniel Exum (D, Prince Georges) for the leadership of the 24-member group by a vote of 13-7.

The new chairman, a lawyer, will

assume the post in July. He said his chief goal will be to expand the scope of the caucus.

Baltimore and Prince Georges and Carroll counties are the only jurisdictions with black legislators in their state delegations.

"Our aim is to establish networks around the state so we can learn what the concerns of black citizens are and deliver a high level of representation that goes well beyond the boundaries of our individual districts," **Mr. Cummings** said.