

# Minority leader Madden to quit Senate

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Frederick Post 9/11/01

The leader of Maryland Senate Republicans said Monday he was stepping down at the end of the year to take advantage of a business opportunity and to spend more time with his family.

Sen. Martin G. Madden said he decided not to seek re-election in 2002, and with that decision, chose to step down this year so the Senate would have a "fully engaged" leader in the upcoming elections.

"You need somebody who is going to articulate the message on the Senate floor as well as travel the state assisting with fund-raising," he said.

Lawmakers said they would miss Mr. Madden, a state legislator representing Howard and Prince George's counties since 1991.

"I hate losing Marty. He was a good leader," said Sen. Nancy Jacobs, R-Harford. "Unlike a lot of career politicians, his family is more important than his political career."

"Marty is a very good consensus builder. I really hate to see him go," said Delegate Robert Kittleman, R-Howard, the House Minority Leader.

Said Sen. Timothy Ferguson: "I think he served well. He has been a good shepherd over the flock."

Mr. Madden was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1990, where he served one term. In 1994, he was elected to the Senate. He became minority leader in 1998.

He racked up a series of votes earning high marks among business and environmental groups.

"I think I've shown being pro-business and pro-environment are not mutually exclusive," he said.

Mr. Madden also was the Senate's leader in the legislature's effort to reform the state's welfare system, a position for which he felt proud, he said. The changes have led to a reduction of 170,000 people, or 67 percent, in the number of people on the welfare rolls.

Senate minority whip Sen. Lowell Stoltzfus said he wanted to succeed Mr. Madden as minority leader, a decision Republicans will make at a meeting traditionally held in December.

He got Mr. Madden's support.

"Lowell would do an excellent job as minority leader," he said.

The new senator who will represent Mr. Madden's district will be chosen by the Republican central committees of Howard and Prince George's counties. The names will be forwarded to Annapolis. If both

panels choose the same person, Gov. Parris Glendening must appoint that person. If they choose separate people, the governor will make the choice.

Mr. Madden said a number of candidates would likely come forward who were from the "same moderate mold."

Mr. Ferguson, R-Frederick/Carroll, said he thought Mr. Madden's decision probably was the result of the upcoming legislative redistrict-

ing. Democrats are guiding the decennial adjustment to the state's political map, as a result of population shifts noted in the 2000 census.

Republicans have said they expect the Democrats to put Mr. Madden in the same district as Sen. Christopher McCabe, another Republican who represents Howard County.

"I think that's a pretty smart move on Marty's part," Mr. Ferguson said.

Mr. Madden, however, said redistricting had nothing to do with his decision.

His insurance business has a chance to expand, which will require his attention. He also said he wanted to spend more time with his youngest child, Marguerite, who entered kindergarten on Monday.