

Annapolis Notes

Senators Consider Abolition Of Constitution Committee

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The recent death of Sen. Edward T. Conroy (D-Prince George's) could signal the end of the Constitution and Public Law Committee that he chaired for the past eight years. The committee was formed in 1975 by then-Senate President Steny H. Hoyer to give Conroy a chairmanship. Now, with Conroy's vice chairman, Norman Stone (D-Baltimore County), facing a tough reelection campaign, the senators are talking of abolishing the committee and distributing its members among other committees, most notably the Budget and Tax Committee, which faces the massive job of handling the budget each year.

One senator known to be in favor of such a move is Melvin A. Steinberg (D-Baltimore County), who is expected to challenge incumbent James Clark Jr. (D-Howard) for the senate presidency.

"The only reason we had the committee was Ed," said one senator. "It would be a lot more efficient to strengthen the other committees. This way, the committees are so small one vote can be traded and swing a key vote."