

Senate Republicans Make Stoltzfus Minority Leader

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Sen. J. Lowell Stoltzfus, an Eastern Shore Republican, was elected minority leader of the Maryland Senate yesterday, as the party took its first step toward regrouping after Sen. Martin G. Madden's announcement earlier this month that he was retiring.

Stoltzfus (Somerset), 52, who had been the minority whip for three years, described himself as an anti-abortion, fiscal conservative who cares deeply about the environment. In an interview yesterday, he said he will try to work with Democrats, who dominate one of the most lopsided legislatures in the country. Democrats hold 34 of the 47 seats in the Senate and 106 of the 141 in the House.

"I think you're going to find my style to be a strong effort to work with everyone," Stoltzfus said. "I'm not a slash-and-burn kind of guy."

Madden (Howard), 52, surprised party officials when he said he would resign from the legislature in December, a year before his term ends, to spend more time with his family and to focus on his insurance business. A moderate who is often praised by GOP colleagues as well as by the Democratic leadership, Madden has

been credited with giving Republicans a stronger standing in the legislature than their numbers implied.

"Marty certainly deserves all the respect he got," Stoltzfus said.

The two sometimes differ—Stoltzfus voted against Gov. Parris N. Glendening's gay rights bill, for example, and Madden voted for it. Madden said that while they may have "different perspectives on the issues, the leadership position has never been one of strict adherence to your political philosophy. It's about articulating the view of the loyal opposition. And I know Lowell will do a great job."

Like Madden, Stoltzfus voted against the budget sent by Glendening (D) in the last session, saying it spent reserves at a time when revenue could slide. More recently, Stoltzfus criticized the governor's efforts to impose state regulations on development along the coastal shore in Worcester County.

"I had a lot of problems with the state coming in and imposing its will on what is a small part of one county," he said.

Senate Republicans elected Larry E. Haines (Carroll) minority whip. He beat out Andrew P. Harris (Baltimore County), Alexander X. Mooney (Frederick) and John J. Hafer (Allegheny).