

Lottery Move Narrowly Fails At Annapolis

By a Star Staff Writer
ANNAPOLIS—A proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize state-operated lotteries in Maryland has been defeated by a Senate committee by a 9-to-7 vote.

One of the lottery bill's strongest supporters, Sen. William L. Hodges, D-Baltimore City, said afterward that the outcome was closer than he had expected and the measure still has "a living chance."

Its sponsors, Sens. Paul J. Bailey, R-St. Marys, and John C. Coolahan, D-Baltimore County, are expected to petition the proposal to the Senate floor early next week.

Meanwhile, in the House yesterday, legislators again rejected a fifth amendment designed to weaken the proposed liberalized abortion bill, but also refused to vote for a procedure that would have cut off further dilatory maneuvers.

As a constitutional amendment, the lottery measure requires at least a three-fifths vote of the General Assembly and would be subject to a public referendum in the Nov. 7, 1972 election.

Gov. Marvin Mandel, who has expressed an interest in legalized off-track betting as an additional source of state revenue, has been credited with having lottery and slot machine legislation killed in the Assembly in the past.

Slots Illegal Since 1968

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill Wednesday that calls for a referendum on the return of slot machines to Charles County. But it rejected two other measures that would have authorized legalization of slot machines statewide and in Baltimore City. Neither of the defeated bills included provisions for a referendum. Slot machines were phased out in Maryland in 1968.

After the defeat of the abortion bill amendment, Del. Alexander B. Bell, D-Montgomery, offered another amendment that virtually deletes all new language in the bill. A vote on the rider was postponed until today.

The amendment by Del. C. Maurice Weidemayer, R-Anne Arundel, defeated by a 67-48 vote, would have permitted abortions only within the first 18 weeks of pregnancy. The bill calls for 20 weeks, and the present law specifies 26 weeks.

Bell, among those trying to kill the bill through prolonged delaying tactics, then moved that further action be held up at least until next Wednesday when a cosponsor of the measure, Minority Whip Aris T. Allen, R-Anne Arundel, is expected to have recovered from an illness. The motion was defeated 71-to-50.

Del. Robert E. Strohle, R-Baltimore County, then moved that the rule permitting a day's delay on bill action when an amendment is offered be suspended in regard to the abortion bill. The motion needed 95 votes to pass. The count was only 62-to-49.

Bottles Bill Fails

Meanwhile, two bills aimed at banning nonreturnable beverage containers in Maryland failed to win support in the House Environmental Matters Committee. A similar measure was voted down in the Senate Economic Affairs Committee Tuesday, but is expected to be brought before the full Senate for consideration next week.

Youth Faces Chair Again In Slaying

Paul Edward Patterson, an 18-year-old Roanoke youth who escaped the electric chair after being convicted of murder in the slaying of a Roanoke pet shop manager, has been convicted of first-degree murder again in the same case.

Alexandria Corporation Court Judge Wiley R. Wright Jr. found Patterson guilty of first-degree murder yesterday after a four-day trial. Patterson had pleaded guilty to murder on Monday, and the only point to be decided was the degree of the murder.

The youth will be sentenced April 22. He could be given a prison term ranging from 20 years to life, or could receive another death sentence.

Patterson was convicted for the first time in June in the slaying of Mrs. Thelma Lipscomb Lam, 33, in September 1969, and was sentenced to death.

But the trial was set aside when Roanoke Hustings Court Judge Ernest Ballou discovered that some jurors knew that Patterson had been found responsible by a juvenile court for an earlier slaying.

The youth took the stand in his new trial on Tuesday and said he could not remember killing Mrs. Lam, although he recounted in minute detail his and two other youths' rambling activities the day of the slaying and the night before.

Much of the testimony in the trial has been given by psychiatrists and psychologists for both sides. They differed on the youth's mental condition and whether he was capable of premeditation.



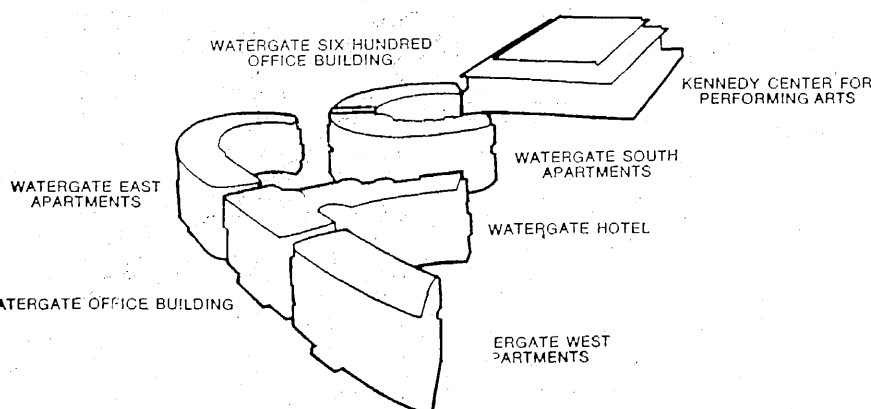
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