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Posted at 1:30 PM ET, 03/ 2/2011

Same-sex marriage bill remains stalled in Md. House

By John Wagner

Updated, 1:30 p.m.:

The fate of Maryland's same-sex marriage bill remained unclear Wednesday, as House leaders indicated they would not try again to bring it to a committee vote until at least Thursday.

The bill was thrown off track Tuesday after two delegates who had previously pledged their support deliberately [skipped a key voting session](#) needed to move the legislation forward.

The continued delay in a vote by the House Judiciary Committee means there is little chance the legislation could come to the House floor before next week, assuming supporters can round up the 12 votes needed for committee approval.

One of the two holdouts, Del. Jill Carter (D-Baltimore) told WBAL-TV Wednesday afternoon that her concerns have been addressed.

"I'm content and ready to vote for the bill," Carter said.

By withholding her vote, Carter said that she hoped to create leverage to increase funding for Baltimore schools and to focus more attention on a child custody bill she is sponsoring. That bill could get a committee vote Thursday along with the same-sex marriage bill.

Del. Tiffany T. Alston (D-Prince George's), the other holdout, spoke briefly to reporters Wednesday afternoon as she entered the Judiciary committee room for hearings on unrelated bills.

Alston referred reporters to [a statement she issued Wednesday morning](#) in which she said she had needed "a little more time to weigh my final decision" but was now ready to vote. Alston's statement did not explicitly say how she would vote.

Del. Don H. Dwyer Jr. (R-Anne Arundel), a staunch opponent of the same-sex marriage bill, said the continuing delays are "a good thing, when you look at it from my perspective."

"That means the votes aren't there," Dwyer said.

By John Wagner | March 2, 2011; 1:30 PM ET

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