

Gay Marriage Vote Delayed After Delegate Protests

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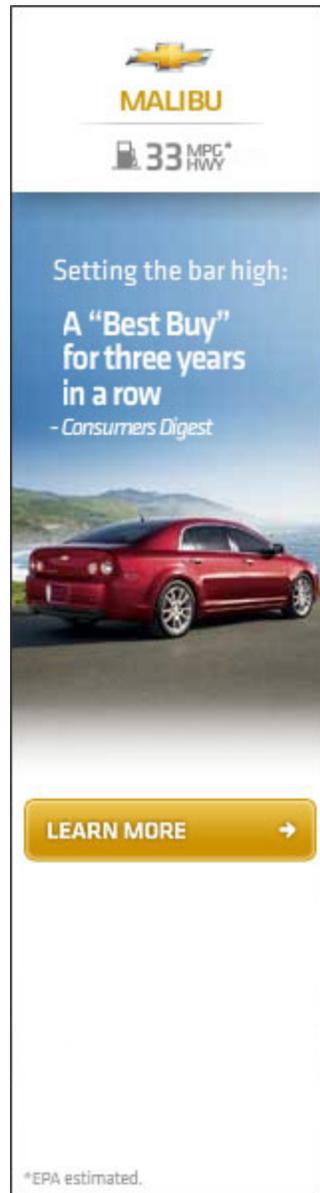
ANNAPOLIS, Md. - The effort to extend full marriage rights to same-sex couples is on hold in the Maryland House following a day of delegate protests and closed-door negotiations.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Vallario delayed two planned votes on the gay marriage Tuesday after it became apparent supporters did not have the votes needed to pass the measure.

Delegate Jill Carter, D-Baltimore, and Delegate Tiffany Alston, D-Prince George's, forced the panel to delay a morning vote earlier Tuesday. The two are looking for more school money for Baltimore City and Prince George's County, Carter said Tuesday afternoon.

Supporters need 12 votes on the committee to pass the bill. Carter, a likely swing vote, said her request had not been met, after a 90-minute meeting with House Speaker Michael Busch.

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