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BRIEFINGS: GOVERNMENT; McGreevey Considers Executive Order

By Laura Mansnerus

Officials in the McGreevey administration are considering an executive order to salvage the governor's prized plan to protect water supplies in the Highlands. The plan has been trapped in a State Senate committee while Senator Stephen M. Sweeney, a Democrat from Thorofare in South Jersey, holds out for measures easing restrictions on developers and builders elsewhere. The bill's sponsors have several routes around Mr. Sweeney. The Senate president, Richard J. Codey, could reassign it to another committee. The measure could be brought directly to the Senate floor for a vote if 21 of the 40 senators supported a motion to bypass the committee. A moratorium or executive order, while a last resort, is authorized by the State Constitution. Laura Mansnerus

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