

aiken
8/3/74
fairfax

FAIRFAX, Va. -- Fairfax County, one of the wealthiest counties in the nation and one of the most liberal in the Washington area, has rejected proposals to include gays in its new "human rights" ordinance.

The ordinance, first of its kind in Virginia, was passed by the county Board of Supervisors July 29. It sets up a human rights commission to enforce a ban on discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin or marital status.

However, members of a citizens' committee which drew up the proposal said a ordinance said a proposal to include a ban on discrimination because of sexual orientation was omitted. One member said members considered it "political dynamite -- an explosive issue," and rejected it because the ordinance "contains enough controversial matter already."

James Scott, a member of the Board of Supervisors and chairman of the ad hoc citizens' committee, said a sexual orientation clause was omitted because "we didn't have enough of a clear idea about the problems in the county in this area. We ought to have a pretty good idea what the problems are in Fairfax before we move ahead."

Scott said that after the commission starts business, it can suggest amendments to the ordinance. "Anybody who wants to can go before the commission and raise a subject such as sexual orientation," he said.

more...