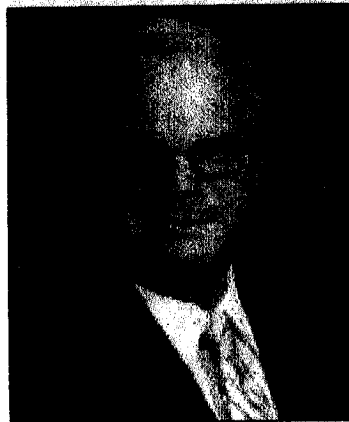


Cerbo gives up legislative seat for AFL-CIO job

BY JOHN SCHROYER
THE COLORADO STATESMAN

The first vacancy committee of the year will be convened before the end of September to fill a safe Democratic seat that opened up Monday when Democratic Rep. Mike Cerbo handed in his resignation.

Cerbo, who represents Denver's House District 2 in the State House, is leaving to accept the position of executive director of the Colorado AFL-CIO.



Mike Cerbo



Mark Ferrandino

"It has been a tremendous honor to represent Denver in the legislature," Cerbo said in a statement. "During my tenure, I have been privileged to advocate directly for the middle class and I look forward to continue to fight for Colorado families."

Cerbo said the only reason he's stepping down is because the AFL-CIO job, in which he'll be doing a lot of lobbying, will likely take too much time for him to be an effective legislator.

"Originally I wanted to stay in the legislature, but it's not

the kind of job that fits in well," Cerbo said Friday. "It's time. It's a lot of work to do."

He's also sacrificing potentially three more years in the House. Cerbo was first appointed to the legislature in 2003 to fill the vacated seat of Rep. Desiree Sanchez, and he would have been term-limited in 2010.

The Colorado AFL-CIO has been looking to fill their leadership post since former director Steve Adams left earlier this year amid conflicts between the state chapter and the national AFL-CIO. Cerbo, a union member for more than 30 years, said he'll begin work as soon as possible.

Cerbo also served as the business manager for the Colorado Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 14 (now known as UNITE HERE) for 24 years, from 1980 to 2004.

Meanwhile, a vacancy committee of party activists and district officials will have to be convened by the district's central committee within ten days of Cerbo's resignation, which was effective Monday. The meeting is set for Sept. 19 at the Denver Democrats' headquarters. So far, the only person who's expressed interest in the job is Democratic State Party Treasurer Mark Ferrandino.

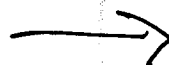
Ferrandino, 30, said he's been waiting for just the right chance to run for office.

"I've been involved in politics all my life. It's always been something I've thought about doing," Ferrandino said.

He has a Master's degree in public policy analysis from the University of Rochester in New York, and as a full-time budget analyst for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, he says one of his biggest legislative concerns would be, naturally, health care reform. Ferrandino says he wants "to work with that to make sure we can provide affordable accessible health care to everyone."

Ferrandino also spent three years as a program analyst for the Colorado Inspector General, and from 2000 to 2003 worked in the White House as a policy analyst for the office of Management and Budget.

CO STATESMAN
9/14/07



Continued from

in 2004. The pow behind the scene the committee.

Known for bui tions in support c Hefley's removal Republicans and House Democrat

"As chairman, the Ethics Comm and unanimous r Leader Tom Del House Speaker E responsibility to u standard — remc Committee for up would be a stain sentatives."

Delay was ind jury for allegedly finance laws in 2t aides were convi Abramoff scandi candidacy and re Congress on Jun Hefley retired Jeff Crank for the refused to endors because of "slea campaign tactics

FACE THE STATE

DOUG YOUNG

Industrial Revolution disconnection from i belief in superiority i nity of harnessing f food, fiber and flots stressing the carryin We need to get back We need to run thin grass. We need to b beehives and anthill locally grown tomatu