

State Senate to snub lame duck Gov. Paterson's plan to dole out number of patronage posts

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[ALBANY](#) - [Gov. Paterson's](#) lame-duck attempt to dole out a wave of plum patronage posts has hit a roadblock in the state [Senate](#).

Paterson has 147 nominees awaiting confirmation by the Senate, which he was hoping would tackle them when lawmakers return Monday to the Capitol.

But a key Senate Democratic official yesterday said there is little inclination to help an out-the-door governor who has been at war with the Legislature for two years.

"Most of our members have been treated so badly that they refuse to give the governor the end-of-term appointments he wants," said the official.

The way they see it, the official said, is that "a vote for his appointments is a vote for the governor, and there aren't any votes for the governor in the Senate."

Some insiders speculated Senate Democrats are using the nominations - which include parole board members - as leverage against \$315 million in budget cuts Paterson wants.

Others said Senate Dems could be currying favor with incoming [Gov. Andrew Cuomo](#) by leaving open positions so he can fill them.

But the Senate official insisted disdain for Paterson is the real motive.

"It's more about the chickens coming home to roost for a lame-duck governor," he said.

While it's likely no nominations will be taken up, a very small number of judicial appointments could move forward, the official said.

It's not uncommon for an exiting governor to stack boards with members whose terms run past even that of the next governor.

Paterson is seeking to appoint five people to the parole board even though he's sought to reduce the size of the panel.

He also nominated a former aide to ex-[Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi](#) to the Workers' Compensation Board at the urging of state [Democratic Party](#) boss [Jay Jacobs](#).

A Paterson aide said yesterday no one from the Senate has told him the appointments will be snubbed, but the governor is aware it could happen.

Hoping to avoid embarrassment, he plans to pare down the list to a couple of judicial appointments and "no more than eight or 10 other appointments," the aide said.

Paterson's main goals for Monday are to close a \$315 million deficit in the current budget and pass measures designed to help [New York City OTB](#) emerge from bankruptcy.

Lawmakers yesterday were skeptical the measures will be acted upon.