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State, The (Columbia, SC)

2000-03-22

Section: METRO/REGION

Edition: FINAL

Page: B5

STATE SENATOR'S FRAUD TRIAL DELAYED UNTIL JUNE

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The federal loan fraud trial of state Sen. Ty Courtney, R-Spartanburg, has been postponed until June to give Courtney's new attorney time to help prepare the case.

Defense attorney **Jack Swerling** of Columbia joined the case earlier this week, said Bill Yarborough, the senator's chief legal counsel. The trial, originally scheduled for April 3, now is slated for June 5, according to the U.S. District Court clerk's office.

Courtney, 48, is charged with lying on loan applications for his 6,000 square-foot home east of Spartanburg. He pleaded innocent to the three-count federal indictment charging him with bank fraud, mail fraud and making false statements on a loan application.

The two-term state senator has taken a voluntary leave of absence from most of his legislative duties. The state Supreme Court also suspended Courtney from his law practice because of the indictment.

Courtney, who has said he has done nothing wrong, declined to comment Tuesday.

Yarborough said he had not seen the order postponing the trial, but said he requested the delay.

"We have been actively getting ready," said Yarborough, a Greenville attorney. "**Jack Swerling** . came in Monday and needed time to prepare."



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