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## Retooling street furniture contract

The City Council Committee on Zoning and Franchises has scheduled a hearing for April 4 to consider legislation removing newsstands from a \$1 billion street furniture contract, and the measure seems to be gaining support. The move could delay the awarding of the contract.

Introduced last fall by Hiram Monserrate, D-Queens, the legislation now has the signatures of nine council members who previously opposed it. The contract, which the city is in the process of awarding, would give the

winner the right to design, install and maintain 3,500 bus shelters, 300 newsstands and 20 public toilets. The Newsstand Operators Association says that some 60 newsstands would have to relocate, while the Bloomberg administration contends that only 11 would move.

Committee Chairman Tony Avella, D-Queens, says that while he wants to avoid any delay, "it was never our intention that the council would create a situation where a large number of newsstands would have to move."