

Albany Times Union

Smith and Skelos would share top spots in power-sharing deal

Deal would make Smith Senate president, Skelos majority leader

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ALBANY -- Senate leaders are nearing a power-sharing accord to allow the chamber to move forward, according to a source close to the negotiations. The agreement would be in effect through 2010.

There are a few remaining items left for the principals to agree on, but the leadership question seems to have been resolved. The lineup:

President pro tempore: Democratic Sen. Malcolm Smith

Senate majority leader: Republican Sen. Dean Skelos

Vice-president pro tempore: Democratic Sen. Pedro Espada

Democratic conference leader: Democratic Sen. John Sampson

According to the source, the challenge now is convincing the fractured Democratic conference to go along with this agreement, which would maintain Smith as the top Democrat in the Senate chamber.