Fairfax Bid To Become City Denied

Staff Reporter

RICHMOND, Feb. 27 — A House committee killed Fairfax County's bid for a city charter tadoy and approved legislation that would prohibit further annexations and mergers in th State for two years while urbanization problems are studied.

The action was taken by the House Counties, Cities and Towns Committee after Del. John C. Webb of Fairfax-Falls Church had made a final plea for approval of Fairfax County's efforts to become a city.

The development was one of several affecting Northern Virginia in the General Assembly today. Other included:

• The killing of a bill to extend the power of the Alexandria Housing Authority to restore parts of the city.

• The shelving of a bill by State Sen. E. O. McCue of Charlottesville to separate the Northern Virginia suburbs into a separate highway district which would mean the loss of considerable State funds. State Sen. Charles R. Fenwick of Arlington let the successful attack.

• The defeat of a proposal by Republican Del. Glenn U. B u r k l u n d of Fairfax-Falls Church to set up a Virginia Industrial Construction Council, a measure highly praised by industrialists at a public hearing.

The study moratorium proposal on annexations was recommeded by a subcommittee headed by Del. Lawrence Hoover of Harrisonburg who also recommended that all other pending annexation bills be dropped.

These included a bill by Webb to clarify the merger law so that Fairfax County could consolidate with the town of Clifton, a move blocked by the courts last year, and a proposal by Del. James M. Thomson of Alexandria to allow his city to reinstitute annexation proceedings against Fairfax without waiting the required five years.

During the moratorium, a State commission would study the growth problems of cities and urban counties to determine if new forms of government are needed.

The moratorium would not apply to pending annexation cases, such as Richmond's present effort to annex parts of Henrico and Chesterfield Counties.