

# Wants to revamp offices on retarded

Assemblyman Andrew Stein, Manhattan Democrat, yesterday said he will introduce legislation to abolish the state's Division of Mental Retardation and replace it with a division including 11 regional boards aimed at delivering decentralized mental health services.

The proposal follows nearly a year's investigation of state mental hygiene facilities by the task force, including the controversial Willowbrook State School.

"The conditions at Willowbrook and other state

schools are not simply a result of lack of staff, although the need of additional staff is great," said Stein. "Children at our state schools receive no personal attention, no personal care, no affection."

Stein said the legislation, patterned after California's mental hygiene plan, would get up 11 boards in which the patients' parents exercise majority control over diagnostic, treatment and counseling centers for patients and their families.

The legislation will be intro-

duced Monday in the form of a proposed amendment to the state mental hygiene law, he said.

Stein, chairman of a special legislative task force on mental health, said his proposal would result in a "shift of emphasis from high-cost institutional care to day care directly involving the patients' parents and family.

Under the plan, the Division of Mental Retardation would be replaced with a Division of Development Disabilities. The bill also would set up a five-member state advisory board appointed by the governor to oversee general programming.

## PARENT MAJORITY

The regional boards, said Stein, would be composed of 60 per cent parents and 40 per cent professional staff.

In a separate development, Manhattan State Supreme Court Justice Arnold L. Fein yesterday ruled unconstitutional a state law requiring judges to place certain mental patients in a hospital administered by the Department of Correction.

Fein ruled in the case of a man, not identified, accused of assaulting an attendant at a civilian mental hospital and brought before the court for compulsory transfer to Matteawan State Hospital, a custodial institution for the criminally insane.

The judge found that the man was "dangerously mentally ill," but refused to order him to Matteawan as mandated by the law, saying the man would be denied his constitutional rights to treatment as a civilian when he had not been charged with a crime.