

Willowbrook \$\$\$, jobs to rise

ALBANY (AP) — The New York State Mental Hygiene Department could add about 2,000 new jobs and spend more money on mental retardation under terms of a budget plan presented yesterday by the Republican members of the Legislature.

Altogether, the department would be authorized to spend an additional \$12.4 million, which would boost its budget to \$13 million.

The extra money would enable the department to carry out a three-stage plan:

Phase 1 — Keep admissions closed at Willowbrook, close them at Letchworth Village and Wassaic State Schools and provide new staff at Williamsburg State School in Brooklyn, the Sheridan unit of Manhattan State School and the Bernard Fineston unit of Queens State School.

Phase 2 — Transfer between 1,000 and 1,500 retarded adults and geriatric patients from Willowbrook, Wassaic and Letchworth Village to available space in state hospitals. New mental retardation units would be established in the hospitals.

Phase 3 — Provide additional patient care staff at Willowbrook, Wassaic, Letchworth Village, Newark and Rome State Schools. In addition, staff would be provided

by passing a bill which took seven years to reach its final form.

The major thrust of the revisions would put more controls over private homes for the care of the mentally disabled and would broaden mental patients' rights.

An identical measure is awaiting action before the Assembly House Committee in a compromise move, legislators restored \$14 million in state drug education programs in the schools, alleviating fears by supporters that they would be cut entirely.

Governor Rockefeller had cut out last year's \$23 million program that had provided \$19 million for New York City and \$5 million upstate.

The city's share now will amount to about \$12 million, legislative leaders said, \$6 million less than current spending.

Staten Island schools received \$470,328 for school-based projects. This is expected to be shaved somewhat next year.