

State budget OKs \$150M for Island

ADVANCE ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY — At least \$150 million of the state's \$9.3-billion budget will go directly to Staten Island institutions and services, with most of the state funds earmarked for local education and mental health facilities.

Many items in the budget, such as highway and sewer construction funds, are listed in lump sums that cannot be broken down according to project. So, while the state Environmental Conservation Department has indicated that it may fund two interceptor sewers on the South Shore for \$40 million, the budget sheds no light on the case.

The state fiscal plan does clearly provide some \$67.3 million for three mental health facilities on Staten Island, along with about \$45 million in aid to education for the Island's 55,000 public school students. The budget also provides some support for colleges on Staten Island, according to a variety of aid plans.

The lion's share of the mental health money will go to Willowbrook State School, which will receive \$49.4 million for its operating expenses, including a \$41.1 million payroll. This represents a \$9.7 million increase over the present budget, or almost 25 per cent.

Willowbrook was also given \$4.7 million for capital projects, including \$1.9 million for air-conditioning, \$632,000 for street lighting, \$110,000 for electrical improvements, \$65,000 for plans for better sanitary facilities, \$445,000 for improvements to

Building 60, \$134,000 for insect screens, \$313,000 for plans to change Buildings 13, 15 and 17, \$194,000 for elevators, and \$99,000 for the laundry.

Next in line was the South Beach Psychiatric Center, which

was allocated \$7.4 million to cover expenses and a \$6.3 million payroll.

The state budget also provides \$2.3 million for construction at the South Beach center, along with \$971,067 for roads and utility hookups on the grounds of the

institution.

The \$45 million for the Island's public schools comes from a larger appropriation of \$619 million for schools in New York City. The aid package is expected to be increased later in the legislative session, when new aid to education will be worked out.

Lump sum appropriations for the state's community colleges and for the City University of New York will aid Staten Island Community College and Richmond College, but no definite figures were available.

Under the state's program of assisting private colleges,

Wagner College will receive \$502,000. St. John's University will also receive state aid, but most of it will be allocated to the main campus in Queens.

The state budget reappropriates \$18.5 million for improvements to the Staten Island Rapid Transit, which the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has not yet spent. Similarly reappropriated is \$14.8 million for construction of the Oakwood Beach sewage treatment plant.

The Arthur Kill Narcotics Rehabilitation Center gets \$7.2 million under the fiscal plan, with \$6.2 million going for salaries.