

State earmarks \$36 million for projects on Island

Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — The State Legislature's proposed 1975-76 supplemental budget includes the spending of more than \$36 million for projects affecting Staten Island, it was announced today.

Included in the budget are funds for the improvement of conditions at Willowbrook Developmental Center, the purchase of a new ferryboat, purchase of land for Last Chance Pond, the improvement of the Staten Island Rapid Transit, the restoration of funds for the

Richmondtown Education Program and building at Staten Island Community College.

The announcement followed a meeting last night of the Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. State Sen. John Marchi of Ward Hill is chairman of the Finance Committee.

The proposed budget includes \$11 million for the upgrading of facilities at Willowbrook and \$4.7 million for 10 other state facilities, in response to a lawsuit contending

that conditions at the institutions deprived residents of on-situational rights.

Included in the budget for Willowbrook is \$4.876 million for the employment of 555 persons full time, \$2.056 million for alterations and improvements of various patient buildings, \$2 million for community placement programs and \$747,000 for improved electrical capacity so that the buildings may be provided with air conditioning, and a portion of lump-sum funds allocated statewide.

Also included in the Department of Mental Hygiene's supplemental budget is \$525,000 for the establishment of a Family Court program, for the evaluation of persons in court-related cases, at the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

The funds for Willowbrook were earlier cut from the state budget, but earlier this week Gov. Carey said he would restore the funds in his proposed supplemental budget to fulfill a decree for improve-

ment at the center.

The proposed supplement also includes \$2.028 million for the purchase of a 6,000-passenger ferry. The funds reflect the state's share of the purchase.

A total of \$2.5 million was also included in the budget for the purchase of 20 acres of the Last Chance Pond area of Dongan Hills.

Last May, Marchi introduced an appropriations bill for the money to purchase privately owned land in the area so it could be maintained as a

wildlife refuge.

A \$2.5-million umbrella program, administered by the Board of Education, was among the items in the supplement. Included is \$104,000 for the continuance of the Richmondtown Restoration's education program.

Though Carey had deleted the funds in an effort to bridge a budget gap, Marchi said June 9 that they would be restored.

The initial \$10.383 million for the building of a science and technology building, a

computer center, a student activities building, a physical education facility, a library and for site utilities at Staten Island Community College were placed in the supplemental budget.

The designs for the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 1978, were displayed last month at the Sunnyside school.

A reappropriation of \$9.2 million for improvements on the Staten Island Rapid Transit are also included in the proposed budget.

This would be used for track

and station maintenance, improvement of the Clifton repair shop and inspection facilities, power substation replacement, the replacement of the line's diesel locomotive and the installation of a turnstile.

Earlier this week, Carey had released his own proposed supplemental budget in anticipation of the adjournment of the Legislature in a short while.

The present session is the longest one the Legislature has ever spent sitting in Albany.