

# Islander to fill Willowbrook post

Gov. Carey yesterday announced the appointment of Jerome W. Isaacs of Willowbrook to the Board of Visitors at the Willowbrook Developmental Center.

The appointment, one of 18 to mental hygiene facilities throughout the state, came after prolonged delays in filling the watchdog posts had been criticized.

Isaacs, of 224 Martin Ave., a research analyst for Philip Morris Inc., is a director of the Willowbrook Chapter of the State Association for Retarded Children.

He assumes the post held by the late Lee Landes, a former managing editor of the Advance.

Some of the unsalaried positions had remained empty for a year or more and one vacancy on the board of the Broome Developmental Center had been vacant since Carey failed to send a 1974 appointment by former Gov. Malcolm Wilson to the senate for confirmation.

Although the boards have in many cases taken on more of a social than a strong watchdog role, a bill signed into law last month gives them increased responsibilities and powers in overseeing conditions at state institutions.

Under the legislation, sponsored by Sen. James Donovan, R-Chadwicks, and Assemblyman James McCabe, D-Johnson City, members of the boards must be notified "immediately" of any allegations of patient abuse or other patient complaints.

The boards must make unannounced inspections of institutions at least once every three months and all board members are required to personally inspect the facilities at least twice a year.

The most vocal group in criticizing Carey's failure to fill vacancies on the various boards has been the statewide federated Parents Association.