

Carey gives \$8 million to prison, cuts education, ferries, Willowbrook

By PETER HARRIGAN
Advance Staff Writer

ALBANY — Gov. Carey yesterday proposed a substantial hike in the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility's budget for the 1977-78 fiscal year, asserting that funds allocated in the current year were "not sufficient" to run the 850-inmate prison.

Carey, in his recommended \$11,345-million budget, proposed that the Correctional Prison be given \$8,002,100 to fund its operations during the fiscal

year beginning April 1, up sharply from the \$2.6 million the facility was originally given last year.

At the same time, the governor proposed cutting expenditures at the Willowbrook Developmental Center by nearly \$3 million, while asking the Legislature to approve an additional \$519,000 for the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

Carey also called for a \$334,000 budget cut for the College of Staten Island's upper division, the elimination of \$150,000 for educational programs at the

Richmondtown Restoration and the High Rock Nature Conservation Center, and the renewal of a \$1.5-million operating subsidy for the Staten Island Ferry.

State budget officials said they believe the more than \$8 million earmarked for the Arthur Kill prison will be enough to fund the facility — a former state-run drug treatment center — for a full year.

The facility, opened after the start of the current fiscal year as part of an effort to reduce overcrowding at other state prisons, received an initial grant

of \$2808,000. When that proved to be inadequate, the Department of Correctional Services had to transfer about \$3 million from other prisons to cover operations at Arthur Kill, a budget official said.

Carey earlier this month sought another \$2.8 million for the prison in the state's deficiency budget, bringing its total allocation for the current year to about \$7.5 million.

Aides to state Budget Director Peter C. Goldmark Jr. explained that the pris-

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on was seriously underfunded when it began operations last year because officials had no experience with running the former Office of Drug Abuse Services facility as a penal institution.

In addition, the aides said, costs have risen because the prison's inmate population has increased from the original estimate of 450 to the current level of 650.

Carey proposed a \$2,954,793 reduction in Willowbrook's budget, to \$49,828,500, largely because the institution's payroll, resident and non-resident population have declined over the last year.

According to budget figures, Willowbrook's authorized work force will decrease from the current level of 4,450 employees to about 3,260 during the 1977-78 fiscal year. While the resident population is slated to decrease only slightly, from 1,523 to 1,500, the non-resident population is forecast to drop from 625 to

Even with the budget reduction of nearly \$3 million, Willowbrook is still in line to receive the largest operating appropriation of any of the state's 20 developmental centers.

The Island's other Department of Mental Hygiene facility, the South Beach Psychiatric Center, is scheduled to receive an additional \$519,243 in the 1977-78 spending period, for a total proposed budget of \$13,888,000.

The budget increase reflects an anticipated rise in the Ocean Breeze facility's work force, from 863 to 909, and an estimated 30 per cent boost in the number of outpatients served by the center. In the current year, it's estimated the facility had about 3,000 outpatients.

Another \$368,400 is earmarked in Carey's budget for an alcohol abuse center at South Beach, representing an increase of \$24,000 over the current year.

The College of Staten Island, slated to receive 75 per cent of its upper division operating costs from the state, would be

given a total allocation of \$6,163,000 under the proposed budget. The college's lower division, for first and second year students, will continue to receive partial state funding under New York's community college program.

The \$6,163,000 for the upper division represents a \$334,000 reduction from the current budget and will require the elimination of 23 teaching and non-teaching positions. Budget officials said the decrease reflects an anticipated decline in enrollment over the next year.

As in past years, Carey again yesterday recommended the elimination of \$150,000 in state funds for educational programs at the Richmondtown Restoration and at the High Rock Nature Conservation Center in New Dorp.

While admitting that the programs "may be desirable," Carey said "their relative program priority is well below other regular aid and special aid programs, particularly in a period of fiscal restraint."

In past years, Island legislators have managed to circumvent the deletion of

the funds from the main budget by adding the \$150,000 to the state's supplemental budget, approved near the conclusion of each legislative session. Senate Finance Committee Chairman John J. Marchi of Ward Hill said yesterday he plans to take similar action this year.

In other areas, meanwhile, Carey's budget:

¶ Provides a \$1.5-million operating subsidy for the Staten Island Ferry, first approved by the Legislature last year.

¶ Carries forward from the current fiscal year a \$3.8-million capital outlay, representing the state's share of the cost of construction of two new ferryboats, already under construction.

¶ Reappropriates from the 1976-77 budget \$10.7 million for a variety of improvements at Willowbrook, required under the terms of the Willowbrook Consent Decree.

¶ Allocates \$139,000 in capital funds for the renovation of washrooms at the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

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