

Carey Pushes Mental Bills

Albany (News Bureau) — Gov. Carey proposed yesterday a package of bills to greatly reshape the state's treatment of the mentally ill.

One of the key measures would reorganize the Department of Mental Hygiene the budget of which is well over \$1 billion this year, into three autonomous agencies: an Office for Mental Health, an Office for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and an Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

A second bill would commit the state to working toward transferring responsibility for all mental health services to local governments and authorize localities to establish single system plans for comprehensive services to all mentally disabled persons.

Carey also recommended the establishment of a permanent commission on the quality of care for overseeing the care provided by all mental hygiene facilities. It would be directly responsible to the governor.

Carey told legislators in a special message, "You have heard as well as I the expressions of dissatisfaction with what exists and the demands for reform. We share an obligation to act."

—Gene Spagnoli