

## **Senate OKs Willowbrook name change**

### **Advance Albany Bureau**

ALBANY — Only Gov. Carey's signature is now needed to change Willowbrook Developmental Center to the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The Senate yesterday overwhelmingly approved the bill to authorize the new designation. The measure, which was introduced by Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly and co-sponsored by State Sen. John J. Marchi, passed the Assembly two weeks ago.

Mrs. Connelly says the purpose of the new name is to give the institution a fresh start and to help erase the stigma of the center's past. It has the support of the Department of Mental Hygiene, which estimates the cost of the change as miniscule.

The department is now in the process of reducing Willowbrook to a 250-bed community facility for Staten Island residents in compliance with a federal court order obtained to correct the wholesale abuses that existed at the institution in the early 1970s.