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proportion of community facility beds per 1,000 persons in the state's 62 counties, and ranks 12th in the state in the number of institutional facility beds.

¶ Within Community Board 2, which covers the mid-Island area, there are .033 community facility beds, making board 2 the fourth highest of the 59 community board planning areas in the city in a comparison with other board statistics listed in the state report.

¶ Board 2 also has 4,361 institutional facility beds, ranking second among the city's community boards.

¶ The rate for both institutional and community facility beds is 53.47 beds per 1,000 persons, making Community Board 2 the highest-ranked board in the city.

The suit claims the statistics cited "overwhelmingly prove" that Staten Island and the Board 2 area are oversaturated with community-based health care facilities.

Further, the Grasmere suit claims its neighborhood in particular is oversaturated, and lists six-community-based facilities in the neighborhoods and three similar facilities "nearby."

Spokesmen for both civic groups expressed confidence yesterday the court would rule in their favor. "I'm hoping that we'll be successful," said Ray Pignato, a spokesman for the Grasmere association. "I don't think the state has a right to arbitrarily shove this thing at us. I think we have a legitimate case and evidence."

The suits are being brought under a section of the state mental hygiene law known as the Padavan Law, after Queens State Sen. Frank Padavan. The law lists specific steps to be followed in the selection of sites for group homes for the mentally retarded.

A section of the law on which the suits are based reads, in part, that group homes should not be placed "in communities which already have an excessive number of community residential facilities for the mentally disturbed or similar facilities licensed by other state agencies."

Both cases will come up in Staten Island Supreme Court, St. George, Nov.

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