

Proposal to give residents more say on care facilities

The Senate Finance Committee tomorrow is expected to send to the state Senate for full approval, Sen. John J. Marchi's bill that would strengthen public and community input into proposed locations of group homes, nursing homes and community-based care facilities.

The move comes barely two weeks after the release of a state report concluding the Island has the highest percentage of group homes in the five boroughs.

Marchi's bill will be reported from the Finance Committee, of which Marchi is chairman, during its weekly meeting tomorrow, and should reach the floor of the Senate for a vote by March 3, Marchi estimated.

The bill proposes to create a 21-member agency, to be known as the Community Facilities Siting Board, which would have final control over the location of proposed hospitals, nursing homes, adult homes, youth homes and group homes for the mentally retarded.

Under the bill, seven members of the board will be appointed by Gov. Carey, seven by Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, and seven by Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink.

"We need to inject balance, rationality and sensitivity to local needs into

the process by which the state now handles proposals for community residences," Marchi said.

Marchi explained the bill is designed to avoid repetition of what he called "the kind of slipshod, one-dimensional state thinking that marked handling of the Beth Rifka Nursing Home proposal," to open the former Danube Nursing Home on Targee St., Concord, as a home for Hassidic Jews.