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Task force urged to evaluate center

From our Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly yesterday asked Gov. Carey to name a task force to consider the future use of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

Mrs. Connelly, a Democrat who represents the borough's North Shore, told the governor in a letter that there have been various proposals for establishing programs at the 384-acre facility. Among them are plans to locate a Navy supply office on the Willowbrook grounds and a center to be operated by United Cerebral Palsy of New York City.

There have also been calls to locate McKee High School on the institutional

grounds as well as a suggestion that the land be used for park and recreation programs. The Willowbrook land is becoming available as the institution continues to place its retarded residents into the community as part of a court-ordered deinstitutionalization program.

"These proposals cover a wide variety of interests, all no doubt worthy of consideration," Mrs. Connelly said. "However, it would seem to me that very serious thought should be given before any decision with respect to this valuable state property is made."

Mrs. Connelly said a task force made up of Island elected officials, community representatives and state planner's would help "avoid a series of hasty ill-advised and fragmented results at a later date."