

State Senate OKs supplemental budget; Assembly turn today

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ALBANY — The State Assembly today was ready to complete action on a \$172-million supplemental budget that provides \$4.7-million to upgrade staff levels at the Staten Island Developmental Center and other centers for the retarded.

The Senate completed action on the spending plan late last night, while the Assembly was to resume deliberations this morning after recessing yesterday afternoon following a short session.

It took the Senate less than a minute to pass the hefty spending package by a vote of 54-3.

Legislation boosting credit rates and granting savings banks broad new powers was scheduled to be considered by both houses today. Also on the agenda are proposed increases and compensation for legislative leaders and top members of the executive branch.

The budget, a mixture of additional state appropriations and money for local projects favored by influential legislators, also provides \$12-million for the acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of group homes. State Mental Retardation officials said that without the appropriation the deinstitutionalization program at the Staten Island Developmental Center would have

ground to halt.

Among the local projects funded in the supplemental budget are the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island Cooperative Continuum of Education and the Staten Island Zoo. Each is slated to receive \$250,000.

Also receiving state funding in the budget are Heritage House, \$150,000; Richmondtown Restoration Center, \$114,000; High Rock Conservation Center, \$46,000 and the Howland Hook Marine Terminal, \$37,500.

Most of the local projects were added to the budget at the prodding of Sen. John J. Marchi of Staten Island, chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

The extra appropriation for positions at state retardation centers follows charges of staffing shortages at the Willowbrook institution and upstate facilities by the Civil Service Employees Association.

Susan Swift, an aide to Mental Retardation Commissioner James E. Introne, said the \$4.7 million in extra funds will not add more employees at the Island center, but will reduce scheduled staff reductions at the facility. The regular state budget, approved in April, anticipated a 50 percent staff reduction at the center; the supplemental appropria-

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