

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 appropriation

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tion means several hundred jobs will be saved.

The state was forced to adjust its employment projections at the center, she said, when its deinstitutionalization program lagged behind court-ordered levels. A 1975 court decree calls for the center's population to be reduced to 250 by April, but state officials now say there are likely to be three times as many residents there through the spring.

Among the other items included in the supplemental budget are the following:

¶ \$11.3 million for the state's share of Social Security increases required by negotiated salary improvements.

¶ \$10.6 million for payments to judiciary employees.

¶ \$39 million to expand drug abuse programs.

¶ \$2.9 million for 830 new inpatient positions at state psychiatric centers. It is anticipated that some of the positions will be allocated to the South beach Psychiatric Center.

¶ \$2.375 million for community education programs in city schools. There was no indication of what percentage would go to Island programs.

The budget, which was finally agreed to after marathon negotiations among staff representatives of legislative leaders and Gov. Carey, was obviously put together in a hurry.

One budget listing, for example, provides \$100,000 for a study of turning "energy to waste" at the Gowanda Psychiatric Center.

And there were a long list of appropriations that some critics say clearly did belong in a state budget.

Among the examples cited were \$72,000 for the publication of an art catalog for the Empire State Plaza in Albany and \$175,000 for expansion of the Jewish Heritage Library Ethnic Studies Institute in Queens.

In other Albany action:

¶ Marchi and Assemblyman Paul Viggiano joined a group of Metropolitan Area legislators in denouncing a recommendation by President-elect Ronald Reagan's urban task force that federal grants be withheld from cities which have rent-control laws. Viggiano, a Democrat, said the implications to New York City would be "disastrous," while Marchi urged Reagan to resist "demagogic and populist" approaches to the nation's housing problems.

¶ State Comptroller Edward V. Regan in a speech before the New York University Finance Club announced the start of a study to determine if tax abatements, long-used in New York State as an inducement to business and industry, should be continued or replaced by other types of incentives. Regan said businesses that benefited from the \$300 million to \$500 million in tax breaks offered by state and municipal governments may have moved ahead with their expansion or new construction programs even without the tax benefits. Recently, a group of city officials criticized massive tax reductions given

the owners of several brand new Manhattan luxury hotels, all of which charge \$100 or more for a single room.

¶ New York State trooper Peter Casella, who said his life was saved by a bullet-proof vest he had purchased with his own money, visited the Capitol yesterday to promote legislation providing vests to all police officers at no cost to themselves. The Legislature was ready today to approve an appropriation giving bullet-proof vests to all state troopers through a supplemental budget appropriation, while legislation providing the vests to all police officers is expected to be taken up in January.

The Assembly completed final action on a bill easing the effect of a new federal requirement that persons receiving pensions or Social Security must surrender all or part of their unemployment benefits.

¶ Gov. Carey joined four other governors in urging the U.S. Senate to act promptly on legislation to finance the cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste dumps. The legislation, known as the Superfund bill, would establish a trust fund to finance the cleanup of dump sites and the cleanup of oil and chemical spills, such as PCB contamination of the Hudson River. The House of Representatives approved the bill Sept. 23, but similar legislation has been bottled up the Senate, largely because of opposition from the chemical industry.