

# Connelly to chair mental-health panel again

From our Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink yesterday reappointed Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly chairwoman of the Assembly Mental Health Committee.

Mrs. Connelly, a West Brighton Democrat entering her eighth year in the Assembly, was considered a likely choice to chair the Assembly Health Committee, which has a larger staff and budget.

She emerged as a top candidate, according to Assembly sources, when it appeared the Health Committee chairman the last two years, Assem-

blyman James R. Tallon, D-Broome County, would be appointed to a key state health position by Gov. Carey.

But Tallon rejected the appointment and was given his old committee chairmanship back.

Mrs. Connelly said she is not disappointed, noting her interest in improving the state's delivery of mental health services.

The mental health committee, she notes, will

carry a new title to reflect the agencies over which it has jurisdiction. It will now be known officially as the Assembly Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

This will be her fifth year as the committee's chairwoman. The position, like that of most committee chairmen, carries a "lulu," or payment in addition to salary, of \$9,000 a year.