

ro charged that this would at least violate the spirit of legislation, passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan, that authorizes an extra year of operating aid for PHS facilities slated for local conversions.

The \$24-million renovation project will involve installing



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central air conditioning, upgrading the electrical system, expanding the nurses stations and other improvements. The work is necessary to qualify the hospital for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements through the state.

As a local facility, the Clifton hospital would be scaled down from 407 to 204 beds, including 160 general medical and surgical and 25 acute care. Nineteen beds would be reserved for patients from the Staten Island Developmental Center and the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility.

The facility will maintain its dialysis unit but lose its teaching function. Other training programs, such as those for anesthesiologists, radiology technicians and laboratory assistants, will be evaluated and possibly retained in joint ventures with one of the local universities.

About 711 jobs will be retained at the facility and the hiring emphasis will be on keeping current employees. At its greatest strength, the work force of the hospital was 1,250.

The proposal says the new community hospital "will adhere to the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church," a policy that apparently bars abortions.