

Carey asks for \$176.5M to pay bills

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Hugh Carey has asked the state Legislature to approve a \$176.5 million deficiency budget to cover unanticipated expenses that must be paid before the start of the new fiscal year April 1.

Carey said in the document released late Friday that the extra money is needed to pay off bills and close the state's 1981-82 year in "an orderly and prudent fashion."

The \$176.5 million would bring the state's budget for the 1981-82 fiscal year to \$16.8 billion.

The spending package must be approved by the Republican-controlled state Senate, which has traditionally made changes in annual deficiency budget recommendations before closing the book on the state's fiscal year.

Carey said \$44.6 million is needed to meet the costs of guards, food and housing to accommodate the "unanticipated population surge" in the state's prisons over the last year.

The state's Department of Correctional Services had estimated the number of state prisoners would be about 22,640 by March, but the governor now concedes it will be closer to 26,000.

Carey said another large chunk of money — \$29 million — will be needed before April 1 to meet the state Department of Social Service's budget. Much of those funds, Carey said, would be used to offset higher-than-expected costs of Medicaid and reduced federal aid.

The governor said the state Education Department will need \$28.6 million to cover the costs of state-supported programs at mental health and mental retardation facilities around New York. Of that money, Carey said \$6 million is needed to meet the state's 50 percent reimbursement responsibility to counties for the court-ordered "placements" of handicapped pupils.

Other major appropriations Carey asked the Legislature to approve to make ends meet in the 1981-82 fiscal year include:

—\$19.2 million for school aid due localities as well as the cost of court judgments against the state during 1981-82.

—\$18.3 million for state employee health insurance costs.

—\$16.5 million for the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to acquire and make renovations needed to increase community residential facility beds.

—\$7 million to fund aid for New York college students under the state's Tuition Assistance Program.

—\$4.1 million for higher electrical costs at state office buildings.

—\$4.1 million for the cleanup of the Binghamton state office building after last February's fire which spewed toxic PCBs and dioxins throughout the structure. The governor also asked another \$7 million for that cleanup effort in his proposed 1982-83 state budget. The office building remains contaminated and closed.

—\$2.6 million for salaries, fringe benefits and bookkeeping miscalculations at the City University of New York.

—\$2 million for the operation of state courts.

—\$550,000 for the state Department of Environmental Conservation to expand hazardous waste enforcement and to meet a shortfall in revenues at the winter sports facilities on Mount van Hoevenberg in Lake Placid.