

Willowbrook braces for layoffs in new state budget

Cuomo sees cuts and higher fees

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ALBANY — Gov. Mario M. Cuomo is expected to propose layoffs of 8,000 to 10,000 state employees, higher taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and real estate, as well as cuts in some local aid programs, when he unveils his 1983-84 budget today.

In addition, his aides report that the new governor will ask for a \$150 hike in tuition at both the City University of New York (CUNY) and State University of New York. CUNY students, who would see total tuition jump to \$1,200 a year under the plan, would also be required to pay a \$25 lab fee when applicable.

Cuomo also will ask the Legislature to raise unemployment insurance benefits from a maximum of \$125 a week to \$170, aides said.

His educational aid proposal, unveiled on Saturday, would hike aid to the city's Board of Education by \$100.8 million. But the plan, which calls for wealthier suburban school districts to lose aid to free money for poorer districts like the city, is likely to run into legislative opposition.

"Taking away money from districts who had it is going to have serious problems," said Charles Dumas, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson, R-Ringhamton.

Nevertheless, legislative observers do not expect the controversy to affect an agreement reached Friday to give the city \$9 million in state funds for handicapped children. The agreement prompted the Board of Education to cancel plans to lay off 1,000 teachers.

The governor has not yet indicated what agencies will feel the brunt of his plan to lay off between 8,000 and 10,000 workers. But the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, and other retardation centers are expected to be among those hit hardest — as the state continues to move the retarded into smaller community facilities.

Cuomo has already said that his budget proposal will provide \$359 million for a state assumption of local Medicaid costs — a move worth \$241 million to New York City. Release of the funds, \$120 million of which was not anticipated in the preliminary city budget, would avert hundreds of layoffs in city agencies and the Board of Education.

In addition, Cuomo said, that his budget will not rely on hikes in the income, sales or business taxes to close a deficit his aides put at \$1.8 billion.

But Cuomo, aides say, will propose a 2 percent revenue enhancement to close the budget gap.

Among them are an increase from 15 to 20 cents in the cigarette tax, an increase of 25 percent in the alcohol tax and a hike from 55 cents to \$1 in the real estate transfer tax.

In addition, he is expected to propose a hike in auto registration fees by 50 percent and a switch in calculating car registration liability from a weight-based system to a value-based method. Also, he plans to seek a hike in driver's license fees from \$1 a year to \$4 a year. The higher auto fees would raise an additional \$130 million.

Cuomo is also expected to seek a reworking of a 2 percent gross receipts tax on oil companies that has been ruled unconstitutional by several courts. The re-

working would eliminate a provision barring the tax from being passed along to consumers. It would generate about \$200 million.