

Budget Director Sees Reductions In State Layoffs

7,600 to Get Notices — 500 Will Be Rehired

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ALBANY, March 8 — The state's Budget Director said today that the state would send out fewer layoff notices than originally planned. The notices are scheduled to go out on Thursday.

The reduction would come from new estimates on the number of jobs becoming vacant through attrition and not filling posts and a new proposal for about \$2 million in new fees on professional licenses, state aides said.

Governor Cuomo has repeatedly said that 8,400 state workers would lose their jobs under his proposed budget.

But the Budget Director, Michael Finnerty, said today that the original budget had actually called for 9,400 layoffs because it proposed hiring an additional 1,000 state workers. He said that under the revised plans, layoff notices would go to 7,600 workers of whom 7,100 would probably lose their jobs.

Senate Aide Sees 6,700 Layoffs

He said that of those receiving notices, 500 employees would be immediately rehired using money from other sources, including the Federal Government and the proposed Education Department user fees. Mr. Finnerty said, however, that if anticipated Federal funds do not come through, the 500 workers would be laid off.

James L. Biggane, a top fiscal aide for the State Senate, predicted that far fewer than 7,600 workers would actually lose their jobs. According to state agency plans submitted to the Governor, he said, about 6,700 workers would be laid off.

Mr. Finnerty said that the state would still save \$219 million through the reductions even though fewer workers would be laid off. In some cases he said, state agencies chose to lay off fewer people at higher salary levels to save the same amount of money.

Robert Maurer, executive deputy commissioner of the Education Department, said that the new fees would raise about \$2.2 million this year and \$2.6 million every year thereafter.

Agencies Proposed Alternatives

The new fees would increase the cost of teacher certificates from \$10 to \$25 and double the fees for some permits required of doctors, nurses and other professionals, Mr. Maurer said. The Education Department would also raise its \$10 charge to \$50 for evaluating educational credits that teachers accumulate from out of state or extra courses. The new fees would require legislative approval.

The new fees, he said, would eliminate the need for 88 layoffs, although 120 positions would be lost through attrition.

In February, Governor Cuomo said that his budget called for reducing the work force by 14,000 positions — 8,400 through layoffs, 2,297 through attrition and 3,400 through early retirements.