

## Compromise reached on gasoline tax

Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and the Senate's Republican leader reached a compromise yesterday on a proposed gasoline tax — clearing the way for passage of a state budget this weekend.

"There still dinkering with a million (dollars) here and a million there," said Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly, D-West Brighton last night. "But I think we're in pretty good shape."

Still unresolved last night was whether cultural and education groups across the state would win funding.

The Staten Island groups considered most likely to win funding are the Staten Island Cooperative Continuum of Education, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and the Learning Institute of the Jewish Community Center.

The compromise between Cuomo and Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson, R-Binghamton, involves the proposed 2-percent gross receipts tax on oil companies.

Anderson wanted the tax, which could raise the price of a gallon of gas by 2½ cents, to expire in two years. But Cuomo said the "sunset" clause might make it more difficult to get the oil companies to pay "hundreds of millions of dollars" the state claims they owe from a similar tax imposed in 1980.

The compromise came when Cuomo said he would accept a provision that makes the tax invalid in three years.

And while Cuomo would not confirm it, sources said the com-

Page 1 of 1

2. Page