

# Burstein appointed chief of state civil service agency

By JOEL STASHENKO

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The state's former top consumer advocate, Karen Burstein, has become the head of the New York state Civil Service Commission.

In a sudden move Saturday evening, Gov. Mario Cuomo nominated Ms. Burstein to succeed Joseph Valenti in the \$65,700-a-year commission president's job. Shortly before midnight, the 40-year-old Ms. Burstein was confirmed unanimously by the Republican-controlled state Senate.

Ms. Burstein, a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Fordham University Law School, was an active supporter of New York City Mayor Edward Koch over Cuomo in the 1982 Democratic gubernatorial primary.

"She's done so many good things to promote equal opportunity for women," said state Sen. Olga Mendez, D-Manhattan, during the rapid Senate confirmation.

"I look forward to a very lively Civil Service Commission in the coming years," added Sen. James Lack, R-Suffolk.

Ms. Burstein was appointed to the \$55,300-a-year post as head of the consumer protection board by former Gov. Hugh Carey in 1981. Prior to that she served on the state Public Service Commis-

sion from 1978 to 1980 and was a state senator from Long Island from from 1973 to 1978. She was a participant in the right-to-vote march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965.

Ms. Burstein's new term runs until Feb. 1, 1987.

Valenti, meanwhile, is said to be in contention for another Cuomo job.

"The governor thinks very highly of him," said Cuomo spokeswoman Betsy Weiss.

While the Senate acted on Ms. Burstein's nomination on the spot, our other Cuomo nominees were left hanging by the state Senate when it adjourned this morning.

Cuomo's nominations of Donald Chesworth Jr. as new State Police superintendent, of Steven Katz as commissioner of the state Office of Mental Health and of Arthur Webb as commissioner of the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities all were not seriously considered in the waning days of the legislative session.

State Sen. Ralph Marino, R-Nassau, said that his Senate Crime and Correction Committee didn't have time to look at Chesworth's nomination.

"Until they give me time to do him properly, I'm not going to," Marino said. "I want to hold

hearings. They've got to give me a couple of weeks."

Chesworth was nominated by the governor to succeed William Connelie on June 14.

Senate Mental Hygiene and Addiction Control Committee Chairman Frank Padavan, R-Queens, similarly said he wants to hold hearings on the nominations of Katz and Webb before making a determination of their fitness for the mental health jobs. Those officials were nominated by Cuomo on June 17.

State Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, R-Binghamton, said he would bring his troops back to the Capitol on July 12 "primarily" to consider the pending nominations.

While Anderson said Chesworth was at the top of his priority list, the two mental health posts might wait depending on whether Padavan feels he has enough time to review the nominees. And, Anderson pointed out that Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Marchi, Ward Hill Republican, remains hospitalized following prostate surgery and may be unable to resume his duties by July 12.

All Cuomo nominations must pass muster with Marchi's committee after they are approved by the lower Senate panels.