

## Legislative Chiefs to Press Cuomo on Hiring

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Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink will present budget amendment to Democratic members today.

ALBANY, Feb. 26 — In what some lawmakers describe as a challenge to Governor Cuomo's handling of the state budget, legislative leaders have agreed on a measure that would set the precise number of workers the Governor should hire at four major state agencies.

The move is an outgrowth of a dispute in which legislators have accused Mr. Cuomo of reducing staff size at the four agencies below the levels that the lawmakers thought had been agreed on in last year's budget negotiations.

The four agencies are the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the State University and the City University.

The legislative leaders have agreed to an amendment to the current budget that would establish the staffing levels the Legislature believes should be in effect. In all four cases, the current staffing is below the levels the Legislature plans to write into the law.

Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink will present the proposed amendment to his Democratic members Monday, and Senator Warren M. Anderson, the majority leader, will take it up with Republicans in the Senate on Tuesday.

The amendment will be part of what is known as the deficiency budget, a measure designed to make corrections in the budget as the fiscal year comes to an end.

Governor Cuomo said he could probably accept the measure because he did not believe it was intended as an attack on his authority to implement the state budget. He noted that the measure included a provision under which staffing could remain below levels set by the Legislature so long as the Governor explained why.

"We have no difficulty explaining," Mr. Cuomo said. "We enjoy it."

Some legislators and senior legislative staff members said, however, that

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