

# Cuomo, lawmakers fail to adopt budget

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ALBANY — Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and lawmakers failed to adopt a new budget yesterday after regional differences unraveled a near agreement on a \$44 billion spending plan.

The 1988-89 budget is supposed to be in place today, April 1, so the state can pay its bills. But lawmakers returned home for the religious holidays and will try to hammer out an agreement next week.

The Legislature did reach a tentative agreement with the governor on capital projects. This list includes \$500,000 to begin designing a recreational pool at the Office of Developmental Disabilities, Richmond Complex, formerly the Willowbrook State School and then Staten Island Developmental Center, (SIDC), said Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly, chairwoman of the Mental Health Committee.

The money was not included in Cuomo's \$44.2 billion budget plan, but Mrs. Connelly, a West Brighton Democrat, said she included it in the budget as one her "member items." She stressed that the funding is tentative, because Cuomo can remove it with a line-item veto.

Mrs. Connelly said the recreational pool was promised by Cuomo during the official closing of SIDC last year. She said she was upset when it was not included in the governor's budget plan.

She credited Speaker Melvin Miller, D-Brooklyn, for fighting to include the money for the pool in capital spending plan. "(Miller) thought the governor betrayed a commitment," Mrs. Connelly said.

The indoor heated pool will be a recreational and therapeutic outlet for Staten Island's developmentally disabled youngsters and other members of the community. "We want to make it a community-oriented complex," Mrs. Connelly said.

Other budget news was dismal.

Regional differences held up agreements on education aid and a \$3 billion bond issue to repair the state's roads and bridges.

While city lawmakers complained of Mayor Edward I. Koch's lobbying tactics in demanding more education aid for New York City, it was Republican senators from Long Island who blocked a pact on the allocation of approximately \$625 million in additional state aid from the Legislature.

In a Senate majority conference, the Long Island delegation said the education outlay proposed to their school districts was unacceptable. Sources said Majority Leader Warren Anderson, R-Binghamton, relented in conference.

"They've been screaming for more school aid since the beginning of time," said one source involved in the negotiations.

Koch, meanwhile, hasn't given up on his quest for more school aid. At the mayor's request, the city Health and Hospitals Corp. (HHC) distributed petitions signed by employees and patients and sent copies to all lawmakers urging them to increase education funding to the city. An HHC cover letter attached to the letter was signed by HHC President Jo Ivey Boufford.

Assembly Education Committee Chairman Jose Serrano, D-Bronx, blasted the mayor's latest tactics and accused Koch of unethical behavior. "It is appalling that citizens coming to government for essential health care were disturbed. Public employees, on public time, using public resources apparently went ward to ward coercing patients' participation in the mayor's campaign of harassment," Serrano said.

Mrs. Connelly, also a member of the Assembly Health Committee, said she was shocked with the latest Koch maneuver.

Two last-minute proposals submitted by Senate Republicans were rejected as too costly by the Democratic governor and Demo-

crat-controlled Assembly. One was a \$23 million request in the budget to localities participating in the Empire State Health Insurance Plan, which New York City is not a part of. The second was \$25 million in tax exemptions for harness racing tracks.

Cuomo called the Senate proposals "a last-minute attempt to buy people's acquiescence" and accused them of pandering to constituencies during a press conference. "When you're faced with one part of the family, you feed it to keep it quiet," he said, "and then you hear from other members of the family."

The governor said he would not budge in spending more than \$44.2 billion in the new fiscal year. And for the first time since the negotiations, he questioned the proposed \$80 million in lawmakers' member items, which critics label "pork barrel spending."

"Why don't you take down member items? Why don't you take down TAP (tuition assistance)? Why do you keep on spending?" he said.

Speaker Miller said details still had to be worked out for the governor's controversial Liberty Scholarship program for low-income students and TAP and regional allocations for the \$3 billion transportation bond issue. But since everything is "linked," he suggested that negotiations are open on everything because "there is no budget agreement at this time."

Majority Leader Anderson agreed. He said budget outlays on housing, roads and bridges, education, Liberty Scholarship/TAP, school construction and solid waste were still on the table.