

Education, transportation stall budget OK

By CARL CAMPANILE

ADVANCE ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY — Staten Island will receive approximately \$3 million in assistance under a portion of the state budget approved this morning by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and the Legislature.

Lawmakers, however, failed to adopt the total \$44.2 billion budget. Education aid and a massive transportation package remained the major stumbling blocks in striking a final agreement.

Mayor Edward I. Koch threatened yesterday to oppose a \$3-billion transportation bond issue to repair roads and bridges if more money is not included for New York City. Transportation Commissioner Ross Sandler, meanwhile, lobbied legislators for an additional \$150 million, or five percent increase.

Koch's demand seemed to make little headway with lawmakers who continued to negotiate throughout the morning.

Cuomo's controversial Liberty Scholarship plan for low-income students, tuition aid, and education assistance to localities — particularly to New York City and Long Island school districts — were still unresolved.

Senate Finance Committee chairman John J. Marchi, R-Ward Hill, said the Republican-controlled house agreed to give New York City Chancellor Richard Green \$15 million to be used "at his discretion" for pressing school needs.

But Cuomo and Democratic leaders didn't sign off on the proposal. They described the Senate proposal "as a last minute sop" to quiet Koch and city education officials while at the same time

accusing nine Republican senators from Long Island with holding up adoption of the budget for more aid for their school district.

Legislators did pass emergency measures to pay state workers, provide Medicaid funding to local care providers and workers compensation. Out of a \$44.2 billion budget, lawmakers were wrangling over approximately \$50 million to distribute across the state.

Included in the state operations budget adopted by both houses is \$1.2 million for transitional maintenance costs at the Willowbrook grounds for the incoming College of Staten Island (CSI) and the phasing out of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The Interstate Sanitation Commission is getting \$450,000, about 25 percent more than what the governor proposed, said Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano, who requested the increase as chairman of the Assembly subcommittee on Interstate rela-



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Gov. Cuomo
 New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean is requesting the same

amount of funding from his state. In addition, \$250,000 for CSI's air pollution monitoring program was added to the budget. CSI also got an additional \$219,000 for a "Health Sciences and Human Services Program."

Cuomo's budget plan surprisingly slashed money earmarked in previous years for CSI researchers to fund air monitoring and lung cancer surveys in the borough. But the Staten Island delegation, particularly Marchi, fought to get it back in the budget.

Vitaliano said it was good news that the funding was a line-item under CSI, and not under the state Health Department budget. "I believe the Health Department has been trying to torpedo this project since its inception," he said.

The Legislature approved a \$26 million solid waste package included in the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) budget that will provide localities with grants to initiate recycling

programs, garbage incinerators, and other waste reduction measures. Environmentalists called the funding the most disappointing aspect of the entire budget.

Another \$217,000 in DEC funding was allocated for air monitoring programs. It could not be determined how much of that money was targeted for Staten Island. The Freshwater Wetlands Appeals Board — reestablished last year to hear wetlands appeals on Staten Island — received \$134,700 separate from the DEC budget.

Furthermore, \$100,000 was targeted for the demolition of the Gun Club in Clay Pit Pond Park, and \$82,000 for the Manor Road Army.

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of New York City was awarded \$350,000. The institute offers educational outreach programs for troubled Italian American students. Vitaliano said the institute is very active in aiding Staten Islanders.