



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Moreland Act Commission to Investigate  
the Supervision, Licensing, and Regulation of Bingo Public  
Hearing Transcripts and Exhibits and Final Report 10986**

---

New York State Archives  
222 Madison Avenue  
Albany, NY 12230  
[archref@nysed.gov](mailto:archref@nysed.gov)  
URL: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

**Table of Contents**

---

Overview of the Records ..... 3

Arrangement ..... 3

Administrative History ..... 3

Scope and Contents ..... 4

Other Finding Aids ..... 5

Use of Records ..... 5

Access Terms ..... 5

## Overview of the Records

---

<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series contains transcripts of public hearings held by the commission to convey information related to its investigation into bingo games in New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Utica, and rural communities in nineteen counties. The series also includes 131 numbered exhibits compiled for the hearings and copies of the commission's final report. Exhibit materials include several recommended legislative bills and investigative materials relating to various bingo operations. The commission submitted these transcripts and exhibits to the governor along with its final report.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Moreland Act Commission to Investigate the Supervision, Licensing, and Regulation of Bingo
<b>Title:</b>	Moreland Act Commission to Investigate the Supervision, Licensing, and Regulation of Bingo public hearing transcripts and exhibits and final report
<b>Quantity:</b>	3 cubic feet
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1943-1962
<b>Bulk Date:</b>	(bulk 1961-1962)
<b>Series:</b>	10986

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Arranged by type of record (exhibits, transcripts, reports); exhibits are numerical by exhibit number.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative History

---

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller established the Moreland Commission Bingo Control Inquiry by executive order on May 16, 1961. The commission was appointed after State Investigation

Commission hearings held in April and May, 1961 in New York City revealed numerous instances of abuses, corruption, and violations of law in the conduct of bingo games. The commission was directed to investigate all phases of bingo in New York State as provided for by Chapters 853 and 854 of the Laws of 1957 (as amended) and to recommend statutory changes needed to eliminate abuses.

The commission conducted investigations in New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Utica, and rural communities in 19 counties. Sixty-three witnesses were examined in executive sessions of the commission. The commission also examined the books and records of organizations authorized to conduct bingo games, proprietors of premises rented by authorized organizations for the games, and manufacturers and distributors of bingo equipment. Near the end of its investigation, the commission held public hearings in New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Utica.

Among the commission's findings were: professional gamblers had bribed employees of the State Lottery Control Commission and municipal employees; veterans' and religious groups had been organized as fronts for bingo games and the funds meant to benefit religious, charitable, and civic causes had been diverted for personal gain; State Lottery Control Commission members had close ties to licensees, suppliers, and commercial hall operators, creating a conflict of interest; municipal investigation and enforcement efforts were minimal; and license fees were inadequate to cover all costs of supervising and investigating the conduct of bingo games.

In its final report dated February 1, 1962, the commission made twenty-five recommendations, including amendments to the bingo control and licensing laws. Among the recommendations were: reorganize the State Lottery Control Commission and establish strict eligibility requirements to reduce opportunities for conflict of interest; give the State Lottery Control Commission specific authority to investigate violations and evasions of the licensing law, rules, and regulations; direct the State Lottery Control Commission to investigate all new licenses and give it enforcement powers over municipalities; municipalities should perform supervisory and investigatory functions conscientiously; license fees should be sufficient to cover all state and local administrative costs; licensees should exercise stricter self-policing methods to prevent misappropriation of the cash handle of their bingo operations; bingo suppliers should be licensed by the state; and clarify the "lawful purposes" to which bingo proceeds may be applied.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Content Note

---

This series contains transcripts of public hearings held by the commission to present to the public some of the information obtained during its investigation. The series includes the exhibits accepted into evidence during the hearings. The commission submitted these transcripts and exhibits to the governor along with their final report, which is also included in the series.

Public hearing witnesses testifying about the organization and conduct of bingo games included: State Lottery Control Commission investigators; State Investigation Commission investigators; district attorneys and assistant district attorneys; local government officials, including those with licensing responsibilities; lessors of premises used for games; bingo game operators; and manufacturers and distributors of bingo equipment.

Exhibits presented at the hearings included: minutes of State Investigation Commission hearings of April-May 1961; State Investigation Commission report on bingo operations, December 1961; annual reports of the State Lottery Control Commission; financial records of organizations involved in supplying, organizing, or conducting bingo games; police records of individuals involved in supplying, organizing, or conducting bingo games; investigation reports describing procedures at particular bingo games; and the commission's proposed legislative amendments.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Other Finding Aids

---

### Available at Repository

Container list and item list of exhibits are available at the repository.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Use of Records

---

### Access Restrictions

Restricted in accordance with Civil Rights Law, Section 73.8, and other statutes. Public hearing transcripts, press releases, published material, and other records that have been previously available to the public are available without restriction. Access to other information is permitted only by permission of the commission or the Governor's office.

---

## Access Terms

---

- Governmental investigations
- Transcripts
- Bingo--Law and legislation--New York (State)

- New York (State)
- Investigating
- New York (State). State Lottery Control Commission
- New York (State). Executive Department
- New York (State). Governor