



A Chronological Guide
to
Records
of the
Delaware
State
Legislature
at the
Delaware
Public Archives

By

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LEGISLATIVE RECORDS, COLONIAL PERIOD – 1776

DELAWARE LAWS

RG 1111 *Laws of Delaware 1700-1775, vol. 1*

The first of the two published volumes of the *Laws of the State of Delaware, from the Fourteenth Day of October, One Thousand Seven Hundred, to the Eighteenth Day of August, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven* (New-Castle: Samuel and John Adams, 1797) contains the bills passed by the Delaware General Assembly between 1700 and 1775 inclusive. An appendix to volume one contains various public papers, including certain legislative acts between 1682 and 1778 that had either expired, been altered or repealed. An index to the first volume of the *Laws of the State of Delaware* may be found at the end of the second volume. Available on microfilm, 1 roll.

The records in the *Laws of the State of Delaware* are arranged chronologically. Laws cover such topics as buying land from the natives, the naturalization of foreigners, individuals dying intestate, land possession and inheritance, bills of credit and exchange, debt, the orphans court, the administration of justice, adultery and fornication, drunkenness and blasphemy, swine running at large, peddlers, servants and slaves, horse-stealing, dueling, killing of deer and wolves, and the construction of roads.

RG 1111.000 Delaware Colonial Laws, 1734, 1741

One reel of microfilm contains three publications:

1. *Anno Regni Georgii II. Regis Magnae Britanniae, Franciae, & Hiberniae, Septimo. At a General Assembly of the Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, begun and holden at New-Castle, the Twentieth Day of October, Anno. Dom. 1733. In the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George II. by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. And from thence continued by Adjournment to the Twentieth of March, 1733 [sic?]* (Philadelphia: B. Franklin, 1734). Addresses debts and debtors.
2. *Laws of the Government of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex Upon Delaware* (Philadelphia: B. Franklin, 1741). Lists Delaware laws in effect at the time of publication. It repeats records listed for various years in the *Laws of the State of Delaware*.
3. *The Charter of Privileges, Granted by William Penn, Esq.; to the Inhabitants of Pensilvania and Territories* (Philadelphia: B. Franklin, 1741).

RG 9270.005 Reference Rolls, Reel 77

This reel of microfilm contains the *Colonial Laws of the Three Lower Counties 1727-1761* in manuscript form.

LEGISLATIVE PAPERS

RG 1111.000 Legislative Papers, 1731-1775

Legislative papers consist of the records created or acted upon by the General Assembly of Delaware. Although the bulk of the legislative papers cover the years after 1776, some material does concern the colonial period. The legislative papers are arranged chronologically by year, then subdivided by sections or terms. Under each term, the records are grouped alphabetically by subject headings. The "Accounts" heading refers to financial records of the state treasurer and auditor as well as the receipts of the members of the General Assembly and others providing services to the state. "Acts & Bills" concern the early drafts and amendments to bills, with deletions noted. For the colonial period, "Elections" refers primarily to the reporting of election results. The "Petitions" category includes the formal addresses to the legislature from a concerned citizen, group of citizens, or an organization to grant, deny, or repeal requests

for specific actions. The legislative papers for the colonial era also include some “Resolutions & Reports” from the General Assembly. A table of contents begins the reel of microfilm.

1. An act for bailing prisoners, 1731
2. Act for Making Current Pound – 1000 Bills Credit, 1735
3. Election results – Sussex County, 1742
4. Election results – Kent County, 1744 (typed)
5. Election results – Sussex County, 1755
6. Act of Assembly: Army & Militia, 1756-1757 (typed)
7. Accounts, 1759, concerning the Assembly of the Lower Counties
8. Elections – Kent County, 1759, roll of gentlemen and number of voters by hundred
9. Petitions, 1759, from members of Swedes Lutheran/Trinity Church to William Denny
10. Resolution and Reports, 1759, regarding campaign accounts
11. Accounts, 1760, Commission for Delaware Government to W.M. Mechen
12. Petitions, 1760, town of New Castle to General Assembly regarding New Castle commons
13. Petitions, 1763, inhabitants of Appoquinimink Hundred to General Assembly regarding Blackbird Creek
14. Accounts, 1770, wages of representatives of Kent County
15. Accounts, 1772, pay to assemblymen
16. Accounts, 1773, Delaware Government to the Representatives of Kent County
17. Accounts, 1775, pay to representatives of Kent County and “Expense Accounts for the Members of the Assembly from Kent County for the Year 1775-1776” (some mutilated documents, some typed documents)
18. Acts & Bills, 1775
19. Petitions, 1775, inhabitants of Sussex County to General Assembly, and inhabitants of Kent County to General Assembly, both regarding taxation

The box in RG 1111.000 labeled General Assembly – Legislative Papers – 1793 Miscellaneous includes one additional folder relating to the colonial period. It contains an original bond dated September 1742.

The oversize box of legislative papers includes fourteen other folders concerning the colonial legislature:

1. Act for establishing a militia within this government, 1741. Original.
2. An act to limit the continuance of actions in the several courts of common pleas within this government, c. 1749. Original.
3. An act for repealing an act passed in the twenty-second year of his majesty’s reign, entitled, an act obliging executors to give security in the register’s office, 1749. Original.
4. An act for the confirmation of possessors of lands purchased bona fide from executors by virtue of orders of orphans’ court within this government, 1749. Original.
5. An act for trustees of loan office to make payments, c. 1754-1756. Original.
6. An act for establishing a militia in this government, 1756. Original.
7. An act for establishing a militia within this government, 1757. Original.
8. An act for extending several sections of an act for punishing mutiny and desertion and better payment of the army, 1757. Original.
9. An act for appointing an agent residing in England for this government, 1760. Original.
10. A supplement to an act entitled an act to encourage the building of good mills within this government, 1762. Original.
11. An act for repealing an act entitled an act for the relief of the poor, 1762. Original.
12. A supplementary act for the amendment of an act of the General Assembly of this government for banking in and draining a quantity of marsh by name of Cherry Island Marsh, 1764. Original.
13. Act empowering Caesar Rodney and Charles Ridgley, Esq., and Thomas Parke of Kent County, to sell and dispose of all the lots and grounds within the town of Dover, 1764. Original.
14. Act for stopping Mill Creek in Christiana Hundred, 1773. Photostatic copy.

JOURNALS

RG 1115.000 House of Assembly Minutes and Proceedings, 1739-1774 (3 boxes)

The minutes and proceedings of the House of Assembly cover the years 1739-1742, 1762, and 1765-1775. They list the representatives at each session for those years and the day-to-day business of the House, including motions for bills and bill activity, committee activity, the yeas and nays of each vote, petitions received, and financial reports. These records address such topics as debtors, the regulation of taverns, drunkenness and blasphemy, profanation of the Lord's Day, servants and slaves, the unseasonable killing of deer, boats and canoes, the firing of wood lands, bills of credit, and the regulation of fences.

Box #1: House of Assembly – Journals – 1739-1742

1. Journal Colonial Assembly, 1739. Original, handwritten minutes.
2. Journal Colonial Assembly, 1740-1742. Original, handwritten minutes.

Box #2: House of Assembly – Minutes, Votes and Proceedings – 1739-1772 (8 folders)

1. *Minutes of the House of Assembly of the "Three Counties on Delaware." At a Session held at New Castle in the year 1739.* A typescript copy made in 1929.
2. *Minutes of Assembly 1740-1742.* Typescript copies for four sessions.
3. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1762). Photostatic copy for the October 1762 session.
4. Minutes of Assembly. Copies of the material in folder 3 and a typescript of the 1762 "Votes of the Assembly."
5. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.* Laminated photostatic copies for October 1765 and May-June 1766 sessions. See also, RG 1115.000 microfilm reel #1.
6. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.* Laminated photostatic copies for October 1766, October 1767, October 1768, June 1769, October 1769, and March 1770 sessions. See also, RG 1115.000 microfilm reel #1.
7. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.* Typescript copies for October 1770, October 1771, and June 1772 sessions. House members are listed on pages 1 and 30.
8. Typescript preface to *Proceedings of the Assembly of the Lower Counties on the Delaware 1770-1776 and the House of Assembly the Delaware State 1776-1788, part I: 1770-1781*, ed. Claudia L. Bushman, Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey.

Box #3: House of Assembly – Votes and Proceedings – 1773-1774 (4 folders)

1. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.* Laminated, handwritten, photostatic copies for October 1770 to June 1772 sessions.
2. *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.* Laminated, typewritten, photostatic copies for October 1773, October 1774, March 1775, June 1775, August 1775, and September 1775 sessions.
3. Votes of the Assembly for session ending April, 1773. Incomplete typescript.
4. Photocopy and typescript versions of the contents of folder 4.

RG 1115.000 House of Representatives, House Journals, 1765-1770

One reel of microfilm contains the published, printed *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1770), which lists the minutes of the House of Representatives of the Government of the Counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.

<u>Session</u>	<u>Pages</u>
October 21-26, 1765	7-32
May 26-June 9, 1766	33-74
October 20-November 1, 1766	75-110
October 20-31, 1767	111-152
October 20-27, 1768	153-183

June 1-17, 1769	183-226
October 20-28, 1769	227-245
March 6-24, 1770	245-279

Topics covered include grievances with the British Parliament, draining lowlands and marshes, roads, swine running at large, the importation of slaves, relief for the poor, and various petitions from individuals. House members are listed by name and county on pages 7, 75, 111, 153, and 227.

RG 1111.021 Proceedings of the Freemen of Government, 1774 (2 items)

This box contains the original handwritten proceedings of a special convention concerning the Port of Boston, August 1-2, 1774, "Resolutions of Del. Convention to instruct Delegates or deputies in the Gen^l Congress 1774." There is also a photostatic copy of the proceedings of the convention held by the representatives of the Freemen of the Government of the counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, held August 1, 1774, to protest against the act of Parliament that closed the Port of Boston. The Speaker of the House called the convention at the request of the Committees of Correspondence.

RG 1800.066 Revolutionary War Records, General Assembly, 1776

The second of the five boxes of Revolutionary War records contains two folders labeled "General Assembly." The first pertains to the colonial era, containing a typed copy of Delaware's resolution of separation from Great Britain, June 15, 1776, taken from the *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. 6, pp. 183-184. A second typed copy, taken from *The Pennsylvania Journal and the Weekly Advertiser*, June 19, 1776, repeats the same information but also provides the instructions given to Delaware's delegates to Congress.

PROPRIETARY PAPERS

RG 0000.003 Colonial Period – Proprietary Papers

Dated from 1680 to the end of the colonial period, the proprietary papers encompass a variety of sources, including correspondence, surveys, addresses, petitions, lists of warrants, commissions, accounts, and land grants. Almost all records in the proprietary papers are handwritten, either in the original or in photostatic copies. Several originals appear in duplicate as either photostatic or typewritten copies. Those proprietary papers most directly related to the Delaware legislature are listed below.

Box #1: Proprietary Papers – 1692-1746 (5 folders)

1. Miscellaneous photostats of originals from colonial period (unprocessed)
 - See folder, "Provincial Assembly: petitions to, accounts of, reports, and correspondence"
 1. Petition from the inhabitants of Kent County to the General Assembly regarding taxes, 1773
 2. Petition from the inhabitants of Kent County to the General Assembly regarding constitutional changes, 1776
 3. Petition from New Castle County millers to the General Assembly regarding the building of grist mills, 1760
 4. Provincial Assembly accounts, 1761
 5. Minutes of Assembly relating to Mark and Ebenezer Manlove's petition, 1764
 6. Representatives' New Castle County General Loan Office account, 1765
 7. Committee's report, 1738/39, on loan office account of emission, 1729
 8. Provincial Assembly reports (2 items)
 9. Resolution to appoint persons to attend a Congress proposed for the Colonies in general, 1774
2. Governor Gookin's speech to Delaware Assembly, 1716
3. Act to construct mills, c. 1734
4. Report of Thomas Noxon about the case of Elias Naudain, 1741
5. Fees established by act of Assembly, 1742

Box #2: Proprietary Papers – 1748-1785 (2 folders)

1. Warrant to affix great seal to laws recently passed, 1759
2. Minutes of Assembly regarding Manlove petition, 1764

GENERAL REFERENCE COLLECTION

RG 9270.001 General Reference Collection

The General Reference Collection contains a miscellaneous array of material on a number of topics. For information related to the Delaware assembly during the colonial era, consult the folders noted below.

Folder Description

- 70 Typed report entitled “The Development of the Law of Gambling: Delaware”
307 “AN ACT for the Confirmation of the Possessors of Lands purchased bona fide from Executors by Virtue of Orders of Orphans Courts within this Government. Passed May 12, 1749.” Typed.

RG 9270.002 General Reference – Biography

If looking for information on a particular legislator, researchers should also consult the general reference biography guide.

PAMPHLET COLLECTION

RG 9270.004 Pamphlet Collection Delawareana – Financial Studies

This box in the Pamphlet Collection contains one item pertaining to the Delaware legislature in the colonial era:

Rodney, Richard S. *Colonial Finances in Delaware*. Wilmington: Wilmington Trust Company, 1928.

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES

The *Pennsylvania Archives* is a published collection of printed correspondence, depositions, messages, petitions, proclamations, resolutions, speeches, and other documents, with the first four volumes covering the years from 1664 to 1776. Although most records concern the executive and judiciary, and those records relating to the legislature usually deal with Pennsylvania, a few scattered entries involve Delaware, often referred to as the “lower counties.” The indexes at the end of each volume are inaccurate. Call number F146.P41

<u>volume</u>	<u>pages</u>	<u>topic</u>
1	204	Delaware claims allegiance and submission to George II, 1727
2	455-456	Correspondence regarding Indians, 1755
3	87	Return of the militia in the government of the three Lower Counties, 1756
3	308-312	An address from the Assembly of the Lower Counties to the Governor, 1757
3	377-379	Speech of Governor Denny to the Assembly at Newcastle, 1758
3	379-380	A message to Governor Denny from the Assembly, 1758
3	401-402	Commissioners of the Lower Counties to Governor Denny, 1758
3	630-631	Minutes of Council at Newcastle, 1759
3	631-632	Minutes of Council at Newcastle, 1759
3	688	Verbal message of the governor to the Assembly, on Newcastle Common, 1759
3	721-723	Speech of Governor Hamilton to the Assembly at New Castle, 1760

3	723-725	Address to Governor Hamilton from the Assembly of Lower Counties, 1760
3	725	Message to the governor from the Assembly, 1760
4	72	Address to the governor from the Assembly of Lower Counties, 1761
4	72	Message from the governor to the Assembly at New Castle, 1761
4	347	Proclamation for preserving the fish in Delaware, 1769
4	585	Message of the Assembly of Three Lower Counties, 1774

PENNSYLVANIA COLONIAL RECORDS

Like the *Pennsylvania Archives*, the *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. From the Organization to the Termination of the Proprietary Government* (commonly called the Pennsylvania Colonial Records) is a published, printed account of addresses, complaints, orders, petitions, proceedings, resolutions, and speeches. Only a handful of entries in the Pennsylvania Colonial Records relates to the Delaware legislature. A table of contents is located at the beginning of each volume. Call number F152.C719

<u>series</u>	<u>volume</u>	<u>pages</u>	<u>topic</u>
1 st	2	26	Address of the representatives of the three lower counties, 1701
1 st	2	46	Remonstrance of the members from the lower counties, 1701
1 st	2	70	Proceedings relative to the separation of the lower counties, 1702
1 st	2	441	Speech of Governor Evans to the Assembly of the Lower Counties, 1708
1 st	2	441	Address of the Assembly, 1708
1 st	2	442	Answer of the Governor, 1708
2 nd	2	31	Address to the representatives of the three lower counties, 1701
2 nd	2	49	Remonstrance of the members from the lower counties, 1701
2 nd	2	72	Proceedings relative to the separation of the lower counties, 1702
2 nd	2	424	Speech of Governor Evans to the Assembly of the Lower Counties, 1708
2 nd	2	424	Address of the Assembly, 1708
2 nd	2	425	Answer of the Governor, 1708
2 nd	5	417	Report of the Committee of Assembly of the Lower Counties of the State of the Paper Currency, 1749
2 nd	9	660-661	Caesar Rodney to His Honour the Governor, 1770
2 nd	9	661-663	Bills passed by the House with the Governor's Assent, 1770

*The first six entries listed for the second series repeat the six entries listed for the first series.

BOOKS

- Bendler, Bruce A. *Colonial Delaware Assemblymen 1682-1776*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1989. Includes a brief history of colonial Delaware government, biographies of colonial Delaware assemblymen, and an appendix that lists – in chart form – assemblymen by session and county, from 1683-1776, with speakers denoted by asterisks. Call number F163.B458
- Bushman, Claudia L., Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey, eds. *Proceedings of the Assembly of the Lower Counties on Delaware 1770-1776, of the Constitutional Convention of 1776, and of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1776-1781*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1986. Call number J87.D3
- Conrad, Henry C. *History of the State of Delaware from the Earliest Settlements to the Year 1907 in Three Volumes*. Vol. 1. Wilmington: Henry C. Conrad, 1908. For the colonial legislature and government, see pages 78-88 and 88-103. The compiled Delaware civil list for the colonial era includes governors, members of council under Penn, speakers of the three lower counties, and members of the assembly under Penn, on pages 255-258, 263-264, 269, 271, 275-276, and 280-281. Conrad also supplies colonial-era civil lists for each county as well, in volumes 1 and 2. Call number F164.C75
- Cushing, John D., ed. *The Earliest Printed Laws of Delaware 1704-1741*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier,

- Inc., 1978. Call number KFD30.A3.C984
- George, Staughton, Benjamin M. Nead, and Thomas McCamant, eds. *Charter to William Penn, and Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania, Passed Between the Years 1682 and 1700, Preceded by Duke of York's Laws in Force from the Year 1676 to the Year 1682, with an Appendix Containing Laws Relating to the Organization of the Provincial Courts and Historical Matter*. Harrisburg: Lane S. Hart, 1879. Call number KFP30.1682.A3
- Governor's Register State of Delaware*. Vol. 1. Appointments and Other Transactions by Executives of the State From 1674 to 1851. Wilmington: Press of The Star Publishing Company, 1926. Lists "Appointments Under the Colonial Government Prior to the Organization of the Delaware State in 1776" on pages 3-23. Call number F163.G721
- Horle, Craig W., et al., eds. *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary. Vol. 1: 1682-1709*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991. Includes a brief history of the time period in addition to the biographical entries. Call number KFP421.5L4L39
- Minutes of the House of Assembly of the Three Counties Upon Delaware at Sessions Held at New Castle in the Years 1740-1742*. Printed for the Public Archives Commission of Delaware. Call number JK3771.D3.M668
- Minutes of the House of Representatives of the Government of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Upon Delaware at Sessions Held at New Castle in the Years 1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770*. Wilmington: James Adams, 1770. Printed for the Public Archives Commission of Delaware, 1931. Call number JK3771.D3.V971

LEGISLATIVE RECORDS, 1776-1865

DELAWARE LAWS

RG 1111 *Laws of Delaware, 1777-1865*, vols. 2-12

The second through the twelfth volumes of the *Laws of the State of Delaware* print the bills passed by the Delaware General Assembly between 1777 and 1865 inclusive. The records are arranged chronologically and cover such topics as the militia; roads, bridges, canals, railroads, and steamboats; lotteries; poor relief; slaves, slavery, and the transport of slaves across state lines; free blacks and mulattoes; "swine running at large"; "Hawkers, Pedlars and Petty Chapmen"; the incorporation of dozens of manufacturing, transportation, and other business endeavors; schools; liquor and temperance; the preservation and protection of fish, oysters, deer, muskrat and other game; "lunatic and insane persons"; and divorces, name changes, and relief for individuals. Each volume is indexed. Available on microfilm, 8 rolls.

ENROLLED BILLS

RG 1111.002 Enrolled Bills, 1776-1865

Enrolled bills are those bills actually passed by the Delaware General Assembly, beginning in 1776. Unlike the published *Laws of the State of Delaware*, these are the original handwritten documents. The enrolled bills are arranged chronologically but are not indexed. Researchers should therefore consult the Archives' database for brief descriptions of the legislation or to search for laws concerning a particular topic. Available on microfilm, 28 rolls.

LEGISLATIVE PAPERS

RG 1111.000 Legislative Papers, 1776-1865

Legislative papers consist of the records created or acted upon by the General Assembly of Delaware. These records begin prior to the Revolutionary War and continue into the early twentieth century, but the quantity of material declines significantly after 1851. The legislative papers touch upon national issues such as slavery, commerce, temperance, and schooling, as well as local concerns such as dams, lotteries, swine, and divorces. The legislative papers are arranged chronologically by year, then subdivided by sections or terms. Under each term, the records are grouped alphabetically by subject headings. The "Accounts" heading refers to financial records of the state treasurer and auditor and receipts of the members of the General Assembly and others providing services to the state. "Acts & Bills" concern the early drafts and amendments to bills, with deletions noted. "Communications" include correspondence involving the General Assembly. "Elections" relates to announcements for holding elections, bonds of election officials, and messages from both houses concerning elections, including contested elections. "Petitions" list the formal addresses to the legislature from a concerned citizen, group of citizens, or an organization to grant, deny, or repeal requests for specific actions. Petitions cover a wide range of topics, but the bulk of them concern divorce, education and schools, land use, lotteries, slavery, temperance, and transportation. The resolutions of both houses and the reports of committee members appointed to study a particular issue fall into the "Resolutions & Reports" category. Finally, "Summons" list official notices to General Assembly member to convene, or for individuals to appear before the General Assembly.

The legislative papers occupy 59 total boxes for the 1776-1865 period. Available on microfilm, 62 rolls, with a table of contents beginning each microfilm reel.

A sample of the types of records for this time period can be seen in the Legislative Papers oversize box, which contains sixteen folders concerning the years after 1776:

1. Act to establish and confirm the estate of Benjamin Chandler, of a lot in Wilmington, 1788. Original.
2. Act to enable owners and possessors of a certain tract of Meadow Ground Marsh and Cripple situate at the North End of the Town of New Castle to repair support and maintain the Banks Dykes and Sluices belonging to the same, 1792. Original.
3. Kent County statehouse building accounts, 1787-1792. Original.
4. Communications – Annapolis Convention, 1786. Original.
5. Petition to move the Sussex County seat, 1787. Original.
6. Petitions, 1787. Original.
7. Petition to establish seat of Congress in Delaware, 1787. Original.
8. Printed draft of U.S. Constitution, 1787.
9. Petition relating to Elisha Dickerson's mill in Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, 1793. Original.
10. Petition relating to wharf in the town of Milford, 1795. Original.
11. Accounts, 1812. Original.
12. Reports, 1796. Original.
13. Petition for divorce, 1816. Original.
14. Petition for divorce, 1826. Folder contains original *Delaware Gazette*, December 27, 1825.
15. Petitions – Miscellaneous, 1831. Folder contains *original Delaware Gazette and American Watchman*, September 17, 1830.
16. Acts, 1857. Original.

HOUSE JOURNALS

RG 1115.000 House of Assembly Minutes and Proceedings, 1776-1791 (3 boxes)

These three boxes contain the minutes of the House of Assembly, the lower house created under Delaware's first state constitution, from 1776 to 1786. Topics addressed by the Assembly reflect the country's wartime atmosphere and include counterfeiting and raising revenue, the militia, deserters, treason, quartering troops, prisoners of war, and slave- and horse-stealing. See also Claudia L. Bushman, Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey, eds., *Proceedings of the Assembly of the Lower Counties on Delaware 1770-1776, of the Constitutional Convention of 1776, and of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1776-1781* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1986), and *Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1781-1792 and of the Constitutional Convention of 1792* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1988).

Box #4: House of Assembly – Minutes, Votes, and Proceedings – 1776-1783 (16 folders)

1. Minutes of Assembly, June-July 1776. Photostatic copy and typescripts. (6 items)
2. Votes of the House of Assembly, October 28, 1776. Typescript.
3. Votes of the House of Assembly, October 28, 1776 to June 7, 1777. Imprint.
4. Votes of Assembly, January 6, 1777. Typescript.
5. Votes of Assembly, May 1, 1777. Typescript.
6. Votes of Assembly, June 2, 1777. Typescript.
7. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, December 12, 1777-June 26, 1784. Original.
8. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, December 1777. Photostatic copy.
9. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, February-June 1778. Photostatic copy.
10. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1779-June 1780. Imprint.
11. Votes of the House of Assembly, October 20, 1779. Typescript.
12. Votes of Assembly, November 29, 1779. Typescript.
13. Votes of Assembly, 1779. Typescript.
14. Votes of Assembly, March 28, 1780. Typescript.
15. Minutes of the House, May-June 1782. Photocopies and typescript.
16. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1782-June 1783. Imprint.

Box #5: House of Assembly – Votes and Proceedings – 1784-1786 (17 folders)

1. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1784. Photostatic copy.
2. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1784. Imprint.
3. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, January 1785. Photostatic copy.
4. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, May 1785. Imprint.
5. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, September 1785. Photostatic copy.
6. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, May 1786. Imprint.
7. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1786. Imprint.
8. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1786. Photostatic copy.
9. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, May 1787. Imprint.
10. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, 1787. Photocopies.
11. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, January 1788. Imprint.
12. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, May 1788. Imprint.
13. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, October 1788. Imprint.
14. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, January 1789. Imprint.
15. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, January 1790. Imprint.
16. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, January 1791. Imprint.
17. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, September 1791. Imprint.

Box #6: House of Assembly – Journal – 1782-1791 (1 volume)

This is the original published volume of the Proceedings of the Delaware State Assembly, 1782-1791.

RG 1115.000 House Journals, 1792-1865

The *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Delaware* is a published account of the minutes of the Delaware House. Arranged chronologically by session, the House Journals list the representatives at each session and the day-to-day business of the House, including motions for bills and bill activity, committee activity, the yeas and nays of each vote, petitions received, and financial reports. The House Journals are not indexed until the 1816 session. Available on microfilm, 22 rolls.

Some House Journals also exist in manuscript form. There are two boxes of House of Assembly Journals, 1812-1843. The first box contains House Journals for 1812, 1815, 1819, and 1820, all in the original. The second box contains the 1828 and 1843 House Journals in the original, and photocopies of the published House Journals for 1835 and 1836.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

RG 1120.009 Legislative Council Minutes, 1776-1792 (4 boxes)

Composed of three members from each county, the Legislative Council was the upper house of the Delaware legislature under the state constitution of 1776. After the constitutional revisions of 1792, the Legislative Council became known as the Senate. The records of the Legislative Council consist exclusively of minutes from the legislative sessions, showing the day-to-day business of the Council, including motions for bills and bill activity, committee activity, the yeas and nays of each vote, petitions received, and financial reports. This material on the Legislative Council has been collected in one volume, *Minutes of the Council of the Delaware State, From 1776 to 1792* (Dover: James Kirk & Son, 1886), found on the first microfilmed reel of RG 1120.000 Senate Journals, 1776-1865.

Box #1: Legislative Council – Minutes – 1776-1780

Two bound volumes of the original handwritten proceedings.

Box #2: Legislative Council – Minutes – 1780-1792

One bound volume of the original handwritten proceedings.

Box #3: Legislative Council – Minutes – 1776-1789 (24 folders)

1. Legislative Council, members of 1776-1792. Typed pages listing membership by session and county.
2. *Corrections and Addenda to the Printed Volume Published by the State of Delaware, 1886, under the Title “Minutes of the Council of the Delaware State from 1776-1792”* (Dover: James Kirk, 1886)
3. Resolutions by Council, May 1, 1778, for raising Continental loans in the state. Photocopy of original.
4. Council – Legislative – Message from council to House of Assembly, December 25, 1779. Photocopy of original.
5. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 20, 1782. Typescript copy.
6. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 20, 1782. Typescript copy, same as folder 5.
7. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 20-November 1, 1782. Original.
8. *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Delaware State, October 1783* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1787). Photostatic copy.
9. *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Delaware State, October 1783* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1787). Imprint.
10. Minutes of the Legislative Council, March 1784. Photostatic copy.
11. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 1783-June 1787. Six typescripts covering thirteen sessions.
12. Minutes of the Legislative Council, May 1784. Photostatic copy.
13. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 1784. Photostatic copy.
14. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January 1785. Photostatic copy.
15. Minutes of the Legislative Council, May 1785. Photostatic copy.
16. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 1785. Photostatic copy.
17. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January 1786. Photostatic copy.
18. Minutes of the Legislative Council, May 1786. Photostatic copy.
19. Minutes of the Legislative Council, October 1786. Photostatic copy.
20. Minutes of the Legislative Council, May 1787. Photostatic copy.
21. *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Delaware State, October 1787* (Wilmington: Frederick Craig, 1787). Imprint.
22. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January, May, and October 1789. Three typescripts.
23. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January, May, and October 1789. Three typescripts.
24. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January-October 1789. Original.

Box #4: Legislative Council – Minutes – 1790-1792 (6 folders)

1. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January 1790-January 1791. Original.
2. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January 1790. Typescript.
3. Minutes of the Legislative Council, January 1790-January 1791. Typescript.
4. *Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware, November 1792* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1792). Imprint.
5. *Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware, November 1792* (Wilmington: James Adams, 1792). Photostatic copy and typescripts.
6. *Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware, 1812-1814 sessions*. Original published proceedings.

SENATE JOURNALS

RG 1120.000 Senate Journals, 1776-1865

The Senate Journals are published accounts of the minutes of the Delaware Senate. Records are arranged chronologically by session and report on the day-to-day business of the Senate. One volume, *Minutes of the Council of the Delaware State, From 1776 to 1792* (Dover: James Kirk & Son, 1886), covers the Senate under Delaware’s first state constitution, when it was known as the Legislative Council. It is not indexed. Beginning in 1793, the *Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware* provides the

minutes of each session. The Senate Journals contain information similar to that in the House Journals, as both houses grappled with the same issues and worked on similar bills. Indexes to each session, with such entries as bills, committees, petitions, reports, and resolutions, do not begin until 1821. Available on microfilm, 8 rolls.

For the 1776-1865 time period, rough Senate Journals survive for 1793-1798, 1800-1802, 1805, 1807-1810, 1829, and 1837. They are contained in two boxes. The first box holds 11 folders and covers the years 1793-1807; the second holds five folders and covers the years 1808-1837.

RG 9270.005 Reference Rolls, Reel 22

This reel of microfilm contains the published *Journal of the Senate of the State of Delaware* for the year 1800 (Dover: William Black, 1801).

PRIVY COUNCIL

RG 1105.001 Proceedings of the Privy Council, 1778-1792 (oversize box; 42 items)

Under Delaware's first state constitution, the legislature chose an influential four-man Privy Council, whose approval was required for executive branch decisions. The Privy Council lent its consent to appointments to public offices such as justice of the peace and sheriff. It also approved days of fasting and prayer and discussed bills of credit, interstate trade, and the export of grain to the distressed people of Massachusetts Bay and Bermuda, among other issues. One oversize box contains photostatic copies of the proceedings of this body. Records usually provide the location of the meeting and the names of the members of the Privy Council present.

1. Meeting of Privy Council, June 8-12, 1778.
2. Meeting of Privy Council, February 8, 1779.
3. Meeting of Privy Council, March 30, 1779.
4. Meeting of Privy Council, May 3, 1779.
5. Meeting of Privy Council, May 29, 1779.
6. Meeting of Privy Council, May 31, 1779, and June 4, 1779.
7. Meeting of Privy Council, July 28-29, 1779.
8. Meeting of Privy Council, August 24, 1779.
9. Meeting of Privy Council, October 4, 1779.
10. Meeting of Privy Council, May 29, 1780.
11. Meeting of Privy Council, September 7, 1780.
12. Meeting of Privy Council, September 11, 1780.
13. Meeting of Privy Council, February 23, 1781.
14. Meeting of Privy Council, April 7, 1781.
15. Meeting of Privy Council, October 4, 1781.
16. Meeting of Privy Council, February 24, 1783.
17. Meeting of Privy Council, September 17, 1783.
18. Meeting of Privy Council, October 4, 1783.
19. Meeting of Privy Council, April 26, 1784.
20. Meeting of Privy Council, July 3, 1784.
21. Meeting of Privy Council, October 4, 1784.
22. Meeting of Privy Council, November 17, 1784.
23. Meeting of Privy Council, June 20, 1785.
24. Meeting of Privy Council, July 18, 1785.
25. Meeting of Privy Council, November 29, 1785.
26. Meeting of Privy Council, October 1, 1787.
27. Meeting of Privy Council, October 19, 1787.
28. Meeting of Privy Council, December 6, 1787.
29. Meeting of Privy Council, February 25, 1788.
30. Meeting of Privy Council, July 1, 1788.

31. Meeting of Privy Council, October 3, 1788.
32. Meeting of Privy Council, January 24, 1789.
33. Meeting of Privy Council, June 8, 1790.
34. Meeting of Privy Council, October 5, 1790.
35. Meeting of Privy Council, November 9, 1790.
36. Meeting of Privy Council, April 18, 1791.
37. Meeting of Privy Council, October 6, 1791.
38. Meeting of Privy Council, December 5, 1791.
39. Meeting of Privy Council, April 4, 1792.
40. Meeting of Privy Council, October 4, 1792.
41. Meeting of Privy Council, October 6, 1792.
42. Meeting of Privy Council, November 2, 1792.

EXECUTIVE PAPERS

RG 1300.000 Executive Papers, 1776-1865 (23 folders)

The Executive Papers include a variety of papers relating to the executive branch of the Delaware state government – not only the governor but also the auditor, the secretary of state, the treasurer, and the attorney general. Subject headings under the Executive Papers include appointments and commissions, correspondence, military, bonds of officials, accounts of the state, correspondence from the U.S. Congress to Delaware, school funds, education, negroes and slavery, fugitives, petitions, licenses (often for taverns), fines, lotteries, extradition, pardons, warrants, indictments, escheated property, transportation, railroads, the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, and elections. Most of the material does not relate directly to the legislature, although various pieces of correspondence and petitions may deal at least indirectly with laws of the General Assembly. Some folders, however, are labeled “General Assembly,” “Legislative,” or “Legislature.” The contents of these folders are listed below. The vast majority of these entries may be located by matching the date listed to the chronologically arranged boxes, although a few entries refer to folders located in the box marked Executive Papers – 1782-1889 – Miscellaneous.

1. General Assembly, 1778. Caesar Rodney summons Sussex County to General Assembly. Original, in protective sleeve.
2. General Assembly, 1778. Caesar Rodney summons Kent County and New Castle County to General Assembly. Original and typescript, respectively.
3. General Assembly, 1780. Caesar Rodney summons Kent County to General Assembly. Typescript.
4. Legislative, 1812. Joseph Haslet summons New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties to General Assembly. Three items, in original.
5. Thomas Clayton’s and Jacob Stout’s acceptance of an act of Assembly granting them land, 1818.
6. Legislature, 1818. An act regulating the importation of German and other passengers. Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Typed but with handwritten editing. Bound with green ribbon.
7. Legislature, 1818. An act for establishing a Health Office, and to secure the City and Port of Philadelphia from the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases, and for other purposes. Typed but with handwritten editing. Bound with blue ribbon.
8. Address by Governor Paynter to the Legislature, 1827. Original.
9. Legislative Papers, 1829. Legislature elected John M. Clayton U.S. senator. Original.
10. Legislative Papers, 1830. Legislature elected Arnold Naudain U.S. senator. Original.
11. Address by Governor to the House of Representatives, 1835. Original.
12. Legislature, 1837. Includes three items dealing with the state Senate electing Thomas Clayton to replace John M. Clayton in U.S. Senate, one item concerning Samuel Kimmey agreeing to print the laws passed at the last January session, and one item relating to the tomb of John Haslett. Originals.
13. Governor’s biennial message to the House of Representatives and the Senate, 1841. Original.

14. Governor Stockton's speech to the General Assembly, 1845. Original.
15. Constitutional Convention of 1852, schedule. Original.
16. General Assembly, 1852. Agreement to pay Johnson & Chandler for printing the Journal of the House of Representatives. Original.
17. General Assembly, 1859. Two receipts for lands acquired under the General Assembly's laws concerning vacant lands. Originals.
18. Legislative Papers, 1863. Legislature elected James A. Bayard U.S. senator. Original.
19. Legislative Papers, 1864. Election of John A. Nicholson as representative. Original.
20. Legislative Papers, 1864. Legislature elected George Read Riddle U.S. senator. Original.
21. Negroes and Slavery, 1864. Four items concerning the General Assembly allowing the enlistment of colored troops. Originals.
22. Legislative Papers, 1865. Legislature elected Millard Saulsbury U.S. senator. Original.
23. Governor Gove Saulsbury's message to the General Assembly, 1865. Original.

The entire series of Executive Papers is also available on 54 rolls of microfilm, with the years 1776 to 1865 located on rolls 1 to 51.

DELAWARE MILITARY ARCHIVES

RG 1800.099 Delaware Archives, 1744-1827 (14 boxes and 3 volumes of original records; five published volumes)

The *Delaware Archives: Military* is a set of military records dating from 1744 to 1827, with the bulk of the material concerning the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. This collection includes a diverse array of military-related legislative activity between 1776 and 1816, including committee work, accounts, memorials and petitions, correspondence, committee reports and resolutions, extracts from the minutes of the Privy Council, and messages to the General Assembly. Indexes are located at the conclusion of volumes three and five. Call number F161.D29

<u>volume</u>	<u>pages</u>
1	83-88, 538, 568-576
2	823-838, 873-874, 897-916, 919-942, 990-994, 1004-1005, 1039-1043
3	1088, 1182-1184, 1189, 1262-1263, 1275, 1280, 1304-1306, 1352, 1483
4	222-223, 350, 374, 394, 437-438, 444
5	710, 713, 784-788, 940

OTHER LEGISLATIVE RECORDS

RG 1325.147 State Reports Collection

This collection contains one item related to the state legislature, *Proceedings of the Convention of the Delaware State Held at New-Castle on Tuesday the Twenty-Seventh of August, 1776*. Wilmington: James Adams, 1776. Reprint by Star Publishing Company, 1927. Although this publication concerns the first Constitutional Convention held in Delaware, delegates conducted other legislative business, such as provisioning the militia.

RG 1800.066 Revolutionary War Records – General Assembly – 1776

The second of the five boxes of Revolutionary War records contains two folders labeled "General Assembly." The second deals with the period immediately after independence, listing the members of the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives elected from Kent and Sussex counties to the Delaware General Assembly in the first election, October 21, 1776, held under Delaware's new state constitution.

RG 9270.005 Reference Rolls, Rolls 46.1-46.2, Delaware Papers – Colonial and Revolutionary – vols. 1-4, 1777-1807

These two microfilm rolls contain a variety of different records, including handwritten lists of General Assembly members and other state and local officeholders; a list of places where the Legislative Council met between 1776 and 1792; a typed extract from the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, July 4, 1776, requesting that anyone possessing public papers left behind when the British evacuated Philadelphia return them to the proper authorities; acts of the House of Assembly; governor's addresses to the House or the General Assembly; verbal messages from the House of Assembly to the Legislative Council; minutes of the Privy Council; and votes and proceedings of the House of Representatives, written and signed by the clerk and speaker of the House. These assorted papers are not in perfect chronological order, nor are they indexed.

GENERAL REFERENCE COLLECTION

RG 9270..001 General Reference Collection

The General Reference Collection contains a miscellaneous array of material on a number of topics. For information related to the Delaware state legislature between 1776 and 1865, consult the folders noted below.

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
70	Typed report entitled "The Development of the Law of Gambling: Delaware"
211	Letter from E. Berkeley Tompkins to Herbert A. Leshner, 1971, regarding the first General Assembly after statehood. Typed.
302	items related to the Privy Council, including "Meetings and Members of Privy Council under Governorship of Caesar Rodney" (typed), and a photostatic copy of meeting minutes of the Privy Council, November 1780
383	Delaware's resolution to remain in the Union, 1861. Typescript.
758	Letter from George Read, Jr., to Thomas Jefferson, 1791, regarding reimbursement for a copy of the third volume of the Laws of the Delaware State. Typescript.

RG 9270.002 General Reference – Biography

If looking for information on a particular legislator, researchers should also consult the general reference biography guide.

PAMPHLET COLLECTION

RG 9270.004 Pamphlet Collection Delawareana

The Pamphlet Collection contains three items pertaining to the era between the Revolution and the Civil War:

Government and Politics

- John A. Munroe, "A Parson in Politics: The Expulsion of John C. Brush from the Delaware General Assembly in 1801," *Delaware History* 23 (1989): 300-312

Political Speeches

- *Address of the Whig Convention of Three Hundred Delegates, Assembled at Dover, on the Eighth Day of June, 1852, to the People of the State of Delaware.* Philadelphia: Isaac Ashmead, 1852. Concerns the act of the legislature calling for a convention to revise the state constitution.
- *The Lottery Act of 1859. Opinion of N.B. Smithers and J.P. Comegys, Esq's, as to the Proper Construction of the Act of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware, passed January 26, 1859,*

granting Lottery Privileges to Richard France. Reported to the House of Representatives by a Special Committee, January 17, 1862. Dover: James Kirk, 1862.

SMALL MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

RG 9200.000 Small Manuscripts Collection

Few of the small manuscript collections directly concern the Delaware state legislature. The John Dickinson Letters (D09.000) make passing references to the General Assembly, and the last folder in the Caesar Rodney Papers (R08.000) contains addresses to the General Assembly and Legislative Council as well as letters to the President of Congress. The Manlove Hayes, Jr., Collection (H05.000) also includes a few items related to the legislature. In the 1840s, Hayes served for a time as Clerk of the Senate, and for two years in the 1850s, he represented Kent County in the House. The Hayes family correspondence includes a letter written from the Senate chamber in 1845, describing a dispute in the legislature between a railroad and a canal company. Other correspondence between 1840 and 1859 addresses a hog law and provides an account of the debates over the state constitution.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

RG 9210.000-9211.000 Newspaper Collection

Area newspapers occasionally made reference to legislative news and proceedings. Consult the newspaper checklist in the research room for the locations of microfilm rolls containing the *Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser*, the *Delawarean*, the *Delaware Gazette*, the *Delaware State Journal*, the *Delaware Republican* and *Weekly Republican*, and other papers. Only an issue or two remains for some titles, but the holdings for other papers in the 1850s and 1860s are much more complete.

BOOKS

- Bushman, Claudia L., Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey, eds. *Proceedings of the Assembly of the Lower Counties on Delaware 1770-1776, of the Constitutional Convention of 1776, and of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1776-1781*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1986. Call number J87.D3
- . *Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State 1781-1792 and of the Constitutional Convention of 1792*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1988. Call number J87.D3.P963
- Conrad, Henry C. *History of the State of Delaware from the Earliest Settlements to the Year 1907 in Three Volumes*. Vol. 1. Wilmington: Henry C. Conrad, 1908. On the state legislature, see pages 103 to 116, Privy Council members on page 258, state senators listed by county and year on pages 264-269, and speakers and clerks of state Senate on pages 270-271. Members of the state House of Representatives are listed by county and year on pages 272-284, with House speakers and clerks listed on pages 285-286. Call number F164.C75
- Laws of the State of Delaware*. Wilmington: R. Porter and Son, 1829. The collected laws of Delaware that remained in effect in 1829, arranged alphabetically by topic. A table of contents begins the volume, and there is an index at the end.
- Martin, Roger A. *Memoirs of Twenty-Two Years in the Delaware State Senate*. 1995. Martin provides several useful appendices relating to the 1776-1865 time period. Appendix II – Directory of Delaware Legislators provides an alphabetical listing of all legislators that served between 1776 and 1994. It includes the legislators' name, birth and death dates, the county represented, whether the individual served in the House or Senate, the years served, party affiliation, hometown, occupation, and length of service (pages 138-239). Appendix III – General Assemblies 1776-1994 lists the House and Senate members that served each year (pages 240-341). Call number F170.M37.A3x.1995
- Revised Statutes of the State of Delaware*. Dover: Samuel Kimmey, 1852. An updated version of the 1829

volume, the 1852 edition groups laws by topic. The volume includes a table of contents and an index.

LEGISLATIVE RECORDS, 1866-2000

DELAWARE LAWS

RG 1111 *Laws of Delaware, 1866-1997*, vols. 13-71

The thirteenth through the seventy-first volumes of the *Laws of the State of Delaware* print the bills passed by the Delaware General Assembly between 1866 and 1997 inclusive. The records are arranged chronologically, and each volume is indexed. Volumes for 1866 to 1994 are available on microfilm, 61 rolls.

ENROLLED BILLS

RG 1111.002 Enrolled Bills, 1866-1960

Enrolled bills are those bills actually passed by the Delaware General Assembly. Unlike the published *Laws of the State of Delaware*, these are the original handwritten documents, showing the session number and bill number, the title of the bill, and the signatures of the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, bill clerks of the House and Senate, Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Governor, plus the time and date of the Governor's approval. The Governor's signature does not appear on the final bill until 1898. Each bill also includes all amendments and resolutions. The enrolled bills are arranged chronologically but are not indexed. For years up to 1911, researchers may consult the Archives' database for brief descriptions of the legislation or to search for laws concerning a particular topic. The enrolled bills from 1776 to 1960 may be found in 234 bound volumes (not including the six volumes of bills not approved by the Governor), and those for the years 1776 to 1911 are available on microfilm, 93 rolls. For bills after 1960, see 1115.006 House Bills and 1120.003 Senate Bills.

HOUSE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

RG 1115.006 House of Representatives, House Bills and Resolutions, 1923-1992

These are the original House bills and resolutions. Each file contains a cover sheet with sponsors, signatures, and all bill activity noted; the text of the bill as passed or presented; and the text of any or all amendments as the bill progressed through both houses. Some files contain veto letters and short committee or fiscal reports. Beginning in the mid-1970s, a synopsis was included with bills and amendments to explain the legislative intent of the bill. House, concurrent, and joint resolutions, many of them offering well wishes, congratulations, or sympathy, may also be found here. The House bills include all legislation originating in the House, even if it did not pass. Those before 1960 are often blue duplicates of the original bills. This collection is arranged numerically by General Assembly number and thereunder numerically by bill number. There is no index, although the index to the House Journals may be used. Only a few unpassed House bills and resolutions for years prior to the 114th General Assembly (1947-1948) survive; however, the House bills and resolutions from the 114th General Assembly (1947-1948) to the 139th General Assembly (1997-1998) are complete. House bills and resolutions for the 127th General Assembly (1973-1974) to the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) are available on microfilm, 65 rolls. Some of these rolls also contain House calendars.

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

RG 1120.003 Senate, Senate Bills and Resolutions, 1921-1992

These records are comprised of legislation proposed for passage in the Senate, including original bills, amendments, engrossed copies of bills, and resolutions. Bills that did not pass, some committee reports, fiscal notes, and veto letters from the governor are all included. In the mid 1970s, synopses began to be included at the end of the original bill and amendments. Those bills before 1960 are yellow duplicates of the originals. Records are arranged numerically by General Assembly number and thereunder numerically by bill number. There is no index, although the index to the Senate Journals may be used. Only a few unpassed Senate bills and resolutions for years prior to the 114th General Assembly (1947-1948) exist; however, the Senate bills and resolutions from the 114th General Assembly (1947-1948) to the 136th General Assembly (1991-1992) are complete. Senate bills and resolutions for the 127th General Assembly (1973-1974) to the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) are available on microfilm, 47 rolls. Some of these rolls also contain Senate calendars.

LEGISLATIVE PAPERS

RG 1111.000 Legislative Papers, 1866-1911

Legislative papers consist of the records created or acted upon by the General Assembly of Delaware. These records begin prior to the Revolutionary War and continue into the early twentieth century, but the quantity of material declines significantly after 1851 and even more so after 1898. The legislative papers touch upon national issues such as slavery, commerce, temperance, and schooling, as well as local concerns such as dams, lotteries, swine, and divorces. The legislative papers are arranged chronologically by year, then subdivided by sections or terms. Under each term, the records are grouped alphabetically by subject headings. The "Accounts" heading refers to financial records of the state treasurer and auditor and receipts of the members of the General Assembly and others providing services to the state. "Acts & Bills" concern the early drafts and amendments to bills, with deletions noted. "Communications" include correspondence involving the General Assembly. "Elections" relates to announcements for holding elections, bonds of election officials, and messages from both houses concerning elections, including contested elections. "Petitions" list the formal addresses to the legislature from a concerned citizen, group of citizens, or an organization to grant, deny, or repeal requests for specific actions. These petitions cover a wide range of topics, but the bulk of them concern divorce, education and schools, land use, lotteries, slavery, temperance, and transportation. The resolutions of both houses and the reports of committee members appointed to study a particular issue fall into the "Resolutions & Reports" category. Finally, "Summons" list official notices to General Assembly member to convene, or for individuals to appear before the General Assembly.

The legislative papers occupy five total boxes for the period 1866 and after. The only folder headings for these years are "Legislative Acts," "Private Acts," "Elections," "Oaths of Office," "Petitions," "Reports," "Resolutions," "Rules," "Bills Lost," "Accounts," "Communications," and "Acts Vetoed." Available on microfilm, 3 rolls, with a table of contents beginning each microfilm reel.

HOUSE JOURNALS

RG 1115.000 House Journals, 1867-1992

The *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Delaware* is a published account of the minutes of the Delaware House. Arranged chronologically by session, the House Journals list the representatives at each session and the day-to-day business of the House, including motions for bills and bill activity, committee activity, the yeas and nays of each vote, petitions received, and financial reports. All the House Journals after 1816 are indexed. Available on microfilm, 63 rolls.

Some House Journals for the period after 1866 also exist in manuscript form. There are 12 boxes of the original, rough draft House of Assembly Journals, 1883-1889. A manuscript House Journal from 1939 also survives.

SENATE JOURNALS

RG 1120.000 Senate Journals, 1866-1992

The Senate Journals are published accounts of the minutes of the Delaware Senate. Records are arranged chronologically by session and report on the day-to-day business of the Senate. The Senate Journals contain information similar to that in the House Journals, with records showing the date of time of the meetings, the members present, the bills introduced, and resolutions. All of the Senate Journals are indexed after 1821, using such entries as bills, committees, petitions, reports, and resolutions. Available on microfilm, 50 rolls.

Some Senate Journals for the period after 1866 also exist in manuscript form. There are 22 boxes of the original, rough draft Senate Journals for 1883-1905.

EXECUTIVE PAPERS

RG 1300.000 Executive Papers, 1866-1963 (6 folders)

The Executive Papers include a variety of papers relating to the executive branch of the Delaware state government – not only the governor but also the auditor, the secretary of state, the treasurer, and the attorney general. Subject headings under the Executive Papers include appointments and commissions, correspondence, military, bonds of officials, accounts of the state, correspondence from the U.S. Congress to Delaware, school funds, education, negroes and slavery, fugitives, petitions, licenses (often for taverns), fines, lotteries, extradition, pardons, warrants, indictments, escheated property, transportation, railroads, the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, and elections. Most of the material does not relate directly to the legislature, although various pieces of correspondence and petitions may deal at least indirectly with laws of the General Assembly. Some folders, however, are labeled “General Assembly,” “Legislative,” or “Legislature.” These folders are listed below. The bulk of the Executive Papers end by 1900.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1867-1870	1869 General Assembly (1 item)
1782-1889 misc.	1871 Legislative Papers – Elections (1 item)
1782-1889 misc.	1876 Legislative Papers – Elections (2 items)
1782-1889 misc.	1878 Legislative Papers – Elections (2 items)
1782-1889 misc.	1889 Legislative Papers – Elections (1 item)
Blue Laws box 2	1943 Legislature, telegraph messages and petitions from citizens to legislators (41 items)

The Executive Papers are available on microfilm, 54 rolls, with the years after 1865 found on rolls 51 to 54.

GOVERNOR'S PAPERS

RG 1302.007 Governor's Papers, 1874-1993

The bulk of the governor's papers covers the years after 1900. These records consist of proclamations, oaths of office, officials' bonds, license returns, commissions, extradition requests, appointments, resignations, accounts, pardons, and requests for education for those with disabilities. As the role of the state government increased, so did the importance and power of the governor and the volume of his records. The records of twentieth-century governors consist primarily of correspondence and subject files, various types of reports, press releases, clipping files, meeting minutes, budgets, invitations, governors' messages, the Governor's Task Force on Reorganization files, photographs, and publications. These files also contain correspondence and other records relating to the General Assembly. The records are arranged chronologically by governor's term, then alphabetically by subject heading. See also RG 1300.000 Executive Papers for governors' records prior to 1900.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY BY DAY

RG 1115.001 House of Representatives, Legislative Activity by Day, 1925-1996

Arranged chronologically by year and by day, these typed records document the daily activities and business of the House of Representatives. They show the bills under consideration and bill synopses, the author of the bill, roll call votes showing the names of legislators, legislator attendance at session, the final action taken on the bill, and the date. Certificates of election show the date of election, who got elected, and the signatures of Superior Court judges. House calendars, which are sometimes grouped separately or with bills and resolutions, show the bill number and title, its sponsor, the name of the committee to which the bill was assigned, the date of report and House action, and governor's messages. This material also contains a list of staff and rough minutes of the proceedings. Daily minutes give the date and time the House convened, the officer presiding, the name of the individual who gave the opening prayer, the attendance roll call, and the daily proceedings.

For the House, legislative activity by day records exist from the mid-1920s to 138th General Assembly (1995-1996), but with some gaps. Records from the 132nd General Assembly (1983-1984) to the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) are available on microfilm, 32 rolls.

RG 1120.001 Senate, Legislative Activity by Day, 1939-1992

These records document the daily activities and business of the Senate. Senate confirmations, oaths of office, daily proceedings, legislator attendance, and roll calls that show the names of legislators, the bills voted on, the final action taken on the bill, and the date are all included. Certificates of election that show dates of election, those elected, and signatures of Superior Court judges. Senate calendars, sometimes grouped separately or with bills and resolutions, show bill numbers, titles and sponsors, the committee to which the bill was assigned, the date of report, the Senate's action, and the governor's action. Records also include a list of Senate staff, copies of pardons and commutations by the governor and rough session minutes. Daily session minutes give the date and time the Senate convened, the names of the officer presiding and the person giving opening prayer, the attendance roll call, and daily proceedings. There is some correspondence in the form of petitions.

For the Senate, legislative activity by day records cover the years 1939 to 1992, although some gaps do exist. Records from the 129th General Assembly (1977-1978) and the 132nd General Assembly (1983-1984) to the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) are available on microfilm, 16 rolls.

AUDIO TAPES

RG 1115.015 House of Representatives, Audio Tapes, 1963-1999

These audio recordings cover primarily the gavel-to-gavel, public debates from House sessions, but they also record some committee meetings and public hearings. Because they provide a record of representatives' own voices, the House audio tapes are particularly useful in determining legislative intent. The House audio tapes are arranged chronologically by date of tape, and a computerized database is forthcoming. 955 original tapes. Permission to listen to these tapes must be received from the Clerk of the House.

RG 1120.002 Senate, Audio Tapes, 1963-1994

These audio recordings cover primarily the gavel-to-gavel, public debates from Senate sessions, although some tapes also record committee, task force, and public hearings; the governor's state of the state addresses and budget messages; press conferences; and a 1987 ratification re-enactment. Because they provide a record of senators' own voices, the Senate audio tapes are particularly useful in determining legislative intent. The Senate audio tapes are arranged chronologically by date of tape, and a computerized database is forthcoming. 676 original tapes. Permission to listen to these tapes must be received by the Secretary of the Senate.

PHOTOGRAPHS

RG 1111.010 Photograph Album, 1982

This album contains photographs taken to document the ceremonies honoring the eight longest serving members of the Delaware General Assembly, 1776-1982. Most of the photos show Senator Calvin R. McCullough at a luncheon given by Governor duPont, ceremonies in the Senate chamber, and ceremonies in the Old State House. William Henry of Dover was the photographer.

RG 1325.036 General Photograph Collection – Government and Politics

Photographs of the General Assembly are contained in Box 4, folder 17 and oversize. They include House group portraits from 1888-1890, 1897, c. 1913, 1937, 1981-1988, 1991-1992, and 1995-1996, and Senate group portraits from 1933 and 1981-1992.

RG 9015001.004 Private Collections – Photographs – Frank R. Zebley Photograph Collection, 1929-1947

Frank R. Zebley, state representative and speaker of the House from Wilmington, collected photographs of legislators who served in the 102nd through the 107th General Assemblies, 1929-1939. Photographs of the legislators are arranged according to General Assembly number. For an index listing the legislators pictured, consult the guide to the photograph collection, binder 35a, collection 6, pages 41-46.

RG 9015003.1 Private Collections – Photographs – Harold W.T. Purnell Photograph Collection, c. 1860-1963

Harold W.T. Purnell (1896-1965) was born and lived most of his life in Georgetown, Delaware. From 1938 to 1946, he served as a state senator, acting as president pro tem from 1942 to 1946. His extensive photograph collection covers a wide range of topics, all indexed in the guide in the research room. Although the photographs categorized under the heading, “Government and Politics – State Government,” do not relate to the state legislature, the collection of individual portraits, also indexed, contains images of some state legislators.

RG 9210013.001 Newspapers – Delaware State News Photograph Collection, 1965-1998

This collection contains photographs taken by staff photographers for use in the only daily down-state newspaper. It includes contact prints for 1965-1987 and negatives for 1969-1997, with some missing. Contact prints show the date and negative number, while negative sleeves may show the date, subject matter, negative number, and name of the photographer. Negatives, prints, photographers’ notes from 1996-1998 are also included. Most photographs in this collection do not relate to the state legislature; however, photographs concerning the General Assembly are likely to appear during peaks of legislative activity, such as at the end of June when legislative sessions conclude. Negatives are arranged numerically by negative number until 1976, then chronologically from July 1976 to 1997. Contact prints are in chronological order. There is no index to this collection.

For other photographs related to the state legislature, see the descriptions for RG 1120.006 Senate, Welfare Investigating Committee Records, 1968; RG 1111.004 Joseph T. Cashman Papers, 1964-1968; and RG 1115.003 Edward J. Bennett Personal Files, 1927-198.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE RECORDS

RG 1106.000 Legislative Council, Division of Research, Administrative Files and Correspondence, 1977-1991

This series consists primarily of correspondence and administrative files maintained on various subjects of interest to the legislature. Files contain correspondence, reports, and copies of legislation. Topics include state agencies, budget requests, desegregation, busing, the Delaware Code, education, elections, state financial reports, legislation, Legislative Council minutes, lobbying, the longest serving members of the General Assembly, the merit system, reapportionment, annual reports, taxes, and data processing. These records are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

RG 1106.002 Legislative Reference Bureau Reports, 1967-1968

Reports of the Legislative Reference Bureau on passed bills as received in the office of the governor show the bill designation and number, dates received by the Bureau and the governor's office, recommendations or comments, and the signature of the bureau director. These records are arranged numerically by bill number.

RG 1106.003 Legislative Council, Address of President Bill Clinton, 1998

This is a VHS videotape recording, "President Clinton's First State Address in Education," courtesy of WHYY TV12. It shows Clinton's address to the 139th General Assembly on May 8, 1998, the first time any U.S. president spoke directly before the Delaware state legislature.

RG 1106.004 Biographies of Legislators, 1976-1982

This biographical data exists on forms created/collected for legislators by the Legislative Council. The forms show the chamber, names of legislator and spouse, home address and phone number, date and place of birth, number of children, occupation, name and business address of employer, business, vacation home address and phone number, name and location of high school, years completed, name of college, years completed, degrees received, other education, past and present organizational affiliations, political offices held, and dates of service. Some resumes and other materials with additional information are attached to the forms. This collection also includes a list of legislators by session. The records are arranged chronologically by General Assembly number, from the 129th to the 132nd, thereunder by Senate or House, and thereunder alphabetically by surname of the legislator.

RG 1107.002 Legislative Council, Controller General's Office, Joint Finance Committee Records, 1988-1995

These records consist of files compiled to help prepare the annual state budget. The files include budget requests, minutes and/or transcripts from budget hearings, the budget bill mark-up book, epilogue book, bond bill mark-up book, general information book, grants-in-aid files, bond bill files for fiscal years 1988, 1989, 1994, and 1995, and audio cassettes. Records are arranged by fiscal year, thereunder partially by budget code number.

RG 1111.005 Sunset Committee, Year-End Reports, 1981-1986, 1993

The Sunset Committee determined whether state boards, commissions, and agencies still performed an essential function or if they should be abolished. Its records are the reports of the joint legislative committee responsible for reviewing the boards, commissions, and agencies to determine their usefulness. Reports show the year, the names of committee members, the committee's authority and organization, review schedules, a summary of committee findings, and the recommendations it made in regards to terminating, transferring, continuing, or re-establishing the entities it reviewed. Agencies reviewed included the Board of Land Surveyors, Board of Nursing, Board of Psychologists, Board of Speech Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers, State Fire Prevention Commission, Health Resources Management Council, and Delaware Solid Waste Authority. Boards and commissions slated for review the following year are also noted. The reports are typed but do not include indexes.

RG 1111.013 Proceedings of the Joint Legislative Committee Investigating the T.E.R.C., 1933-1934

This series consists of transcripts of the investigation by a Joint Legislative Committee into mismanagement and discriminatory practices within the administration of the Temporary Emergency Relief Commission in Delaware. These transcripts record the questions posed by the investigators and the responses of witnesses. Relevant documents brought forth as evidence are also included. These records are arranged chronologically by date of hearing. See also *Delaware Laws*, volume 39, chapter 54, passed December 9, 1933.

RG 1111.014 Joint Committee of Accounts, Report, 1917

This handwritten report by the Auditors of the Joint Committee of Accounts to the General Assembly concerns the condition of accounts in the various state offices. The report shows the date; findings; recommendations; name of reporting auditor Anthony Summers; financial statements of income and expenditures for the general fund, school fund, and sinking fund; and a statement of state assets, liabilities, and investments.

RG 1111.015 Records of the Joint Committee to Investigate the Game and Fish Commission, 1970

These records of the Joint Committee to investigate alleged irregularities in the Game and Fish Commission include meeting minutes, the committee report, copies of testimony, rules of the committee, correspondence, "Delaware Game, Fish and Dog Laws and Regulations," four audio tapes of testimony, an audit report, state police investigation reports, job descriptions, commission policy and procedures, and Board of Game and Fish Commissioners minutes, 1967-1970.

RG 1111.017 General Assembly, Reorganization of State Government Public Hearings Records, 1949-1960

Governor J. Caleb Boggs proposed that the Delaware state government be reorganized from the commission form of government to a cabinet style of government. The General Assembly held extensive public hearings on this matter in 1960. The records in this collection include transcripts of the proceedings, along with accompanying exhibits, requests to speak at the public hearings, and related legislation. The transcripts are chronological by the date of meeting, and exhibits are in numerical order.

RG 1111.019 General Assembly, Joint Revenue Committee, General Files, 1959

This collection includes correspondence, minutes, and resolutions from the Joint Revenue Committee of 1959.

RG 1115.016 House of Representatives, House Labor and Human Resource Management Committee, 1991

These records consist of a transcript of House Labor and Human Resource Management Committee hearings, with an accompanying report and findings. The committee was created at the request of Representative William A. Oberle, Jr., and the Speaker of the House, Terry R. Spence, to investigate complaints regarding the re-classification process for state employees. The resulting State Employee Reclassification Report and Transcript is based on hearings held November 4, 1991. The report provides the background of the investigation, findings, and recommendations.

RG 1115.002 House of Representatives, Representative Gwynne Smith, Coastal Zone Act Subject Files, 1971-1984

Representative Gwynne Smith, environmental advocate and a key sponsor of the Coastal Zone Act of 1971, created the Coastal Zone Act Subject Files, which cover the act itself, attempts to amend it, and the activities of the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board. Subjects include the Blue Hen Finishing

Company; the Brandywine Chemical Company; the coal transfer port; the Coastal Zone Act amendments of 1974, 1977, and 1979; attorney general's opinions; background material; public hearings, including audio tapes; testimony; the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board administrative procedures, correspondence, definitions, minutes, and status reports; a research paper entitled "Delaware Coastal Zone Act – Political and Legal Aspects"; the DP&L Indian River and proposed Summit Nuclear Plant; maps; the Odessa Zoning Code; newspaper clippings; pipelines; and the University of Delaware Coastal Zone Program Talk. The files also include numerous publications:

- "The Coastal Zone of Delaware," July 1972
- "Final Report on Definition of Heavy Industries and guidelines for Acceptable types of Manufacturing Uses in Delaware's Coastal Zone," February 1973 (draft copy)
- "Coastal Zone Bibliography (Annotated)," March 1973
- "Preliminary Delaware Coastal Zone Plan," April 1973
- "State Growth Management," May 1976
- "Bibliography of Reference Materials," May 1980
- "Report on Coastal Zone Act Administration, July 1977-December 1983," September 1984

Records are arranged alphabetically by folder heading. There is no index.

RG 1115.010 House of Representatives, Committee Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes, 1987-1996

These typed documents offer a record of the meetings of various House committees, including the Agriculture, Appropriations, Banking & Insurance, Corrections, Education, Hazardous Waste Management, House Administration, Housing & Community Affairs, Human Resources, Judiciary, Labor & Pensions, Land Use, Natural Resources, Public Safety & Finance, Small Business, Substance Abuse, Sunset, and Transportation committees. Records include public hearing minutes and written testimony relating to House bill 193 (1989) – a bill to permit banks and trust companies to engage in the insurance business – and public hearing transcripts and a report on state employee reclassifications, 1991. The minutes from a 1990 public hearing on assault weapons are also included. The records are arranged by General Assembly, thereunder alphabetically by committee name, then by chronological order. Records cover the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) to the 138th General Assembly (1995-1996). Those for the 135th General Assembly (1989-1990) are also available on microfilm, 1 roll.

RG 1115.011 House of Representatives, House Calendars, 1939-1994

The House calendars record the life-cycle of a bill. They show the bill or resolution number and title, the date and name of the representative and/or senator who introduced it, the House and Senate committees referred to and date, the date reported to the House and/or Senate, the date amendments or substitutes were filed and the name of the sponsor, the date tabled or passed, the date signed by the governor, and the *Delaware Laws* citation of the bill. For some years, the calendar shows only the bill number, the name of the sponsor, and the date introduced. The collection is arranged numerically by bill number. Many House calendars are found with House bills and resolutions or under legislative activity by day. Calendars for 1975 to 1990 are available on microfilm, 8 rolls.

RG 1115.014 House of Representatives, Redistricting Records, 1990-1992

This record group consists of reference material, public input, and House records used in the process to adjust election district boundaries after the 1990 census. Records include a conference handbook entitled "Reappointment and the 1990 Census," a 1990 census report listing racial statistics for each census block, memos and reports related to redistricting, copies of the redistricting bills, correspondence and recommendations by the Wilmington Branch NAACP, reappointment publications from the National Conference of State Legislatures, informational publications from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and two audio cassettes, "Fundamentals of Reappointment Law and Technology."

RG 1120.006 Senate, Welfare Investigating Committee Records, 1968

Senate Resolution #94 in 1968 authorized a Senate committee to hold public hearings and conduct a full inquiry into the Department of Public Welfare and to report to the Senate its findings and recommendations. Records include minutes, correspondence, invoices and receipts, statements, audit reports, committee reports, investigation reports, the department annual report from 1967, department brochures, photographs of welfare recipients and marchers at Legislative Hall, Wilmington, and Washington, D.C., seven audio tapes of testimony, and a 16mm motion picture film.

RG 1120.007 Senate Calendars, 1949-1992

The Senate calendars document the life-cycle of a bill or resolution from its introduction to passage. They show the bill or resolution number, the title of the bill, who introduced it, and the date; the Senate committee the bill was referred to and date, the committee vote and date, who introduced any amendments or substitutes and when, what action was taken and when; and the governor's action and date. Some calendars give the *Delaware Laws* volume and chapter reference. Records are arranged by General Assembly, thereunder numerically by Senate bill or resolution number. Many Senate calendars are found under Senate bills and resolutions or under legislative activity by day. Calendars for 1975 to 1988 are available on microfilm, 7 rolls. The Senate calendars for 1949 to 1992 are not complete, but the gaps in the records are brief.

RG 1120.008 Senate, Guestbook, 1990-1993

The Senate guestbook is a record of people visiting the Senate, showing the date, name of visitor, and their address.

GENERAL REFERENCE COLLECTION

RG 9270.001 General Reference Collection

The General Reference Collection contains a miscellaneous array of material on a number of topics. For information related to the Delaware state legislature from 1866 to the present, consult the folders noted below.

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
70	Typed report entitled "The Development of the Law of Gambling: Delaware"
110.8	General Assembly – Civil Lists
110.9	General Assembly – Civil Lists, 133 rd -139 th General Assemblies
177	three brochures entitled "Delaware Coastal Zone Act: Everything you wanted to know"
184	brochure entitled "Delaware's Legislative Council," defining that body and describing its activities during 1975-1976
332	roster of the 100 th General Assembly
490	Delaware legislature 1897 signatures
592	Anthony G. Cain, "Delaware Politics 1865-1874," a paper submitted for the Phi Alpha Theta Conference, April 8, 1995. Typed, two copies.
741	booklet entitled "Proposed General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware Proposed for Adoption by the State of Delaware," 1967
809	brochure entitled "The Delaware State Legislature: The 140 th General Assembly," listing members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; a history of Legislative Hall and biographies of state politicians in 1999; other miscellaneous material on the division of power, how a bill becomes a law, how legislators decide to vote, and the composition of the 140 th Senate. 10 items.
850	booklet entitled "135 th General Assembly: Government At Work For The People."

If looking for information on a particular legislator, researchers should also consult the general reference biography guide.

PAMPHLET COLLECTION

RG 9270.004 Pamphlet Collection Delawareana

Several items in the Pamphlet Collection relate to the state legislature in the years after 1865:

Delawareana General

- “Legislative Program of the Women’s Joint Legislative Committee of the State of Delaware 1925”
- “Women & the Law: A Delaware Legal Handbook”

Education – Public Schools

- “Report of State School Survey Commission 1948 on System and Standards of Public Education in Delaware with Recommendations for Their Improvement”

Financial Studies

- House Bill No. 28, “An Act to Provide Revenue for the Relief of Certain Poor, Resident in New Castle County and for the Payment to the Levy Court of New Castle County of Moneys Advanced by the Said Levy Court Subsequent to January First, 1935, for the Support of Said Poor”

Government and Politics

- U.S. Congress, Senate, 54th Congress, 1st session, report no. 289 to accompany Senate Resolution 133 “Case of Henry A. Du Pont”
- U.S. Congress, Senate, 54th Congress, 2d session, document no. 86 “General Election in Kent County, Del.”
- U.S. Congress, Senate, 54th Congress, 2d session, document no. 87 “Recount of Vote of General Election in Delaware”
- U.S. Congress, Senate, 54th Congress, 2d session, document no. 105 “Delaware Election, 1896”

Health & Welfare

- *Acts of Assembly and By-Laws; Home for Friendless and Destitute Children.* Wilmington: Chas. H. Gray, 1910.
- *Acts of Assembly Charter and By-Laws; Home for Friendless and Destitute Children.* Wilmington: Chas. H. Gray, 1929.
- *Acts of Assembly Charter and By-Laws; By Change of Name – 1938 Children’s Home, Inc.* Wilmington: Hambleton Printing and Publishing Company, 1943.
- “Securing Legislative Support for New or Expanded Mental Health Programs,” 1963. Typed.

Political Speeches

- “Address delivered by Honorable James Hall Anderson, Lieutenant Governor of Delaware, Before the General Assembly at Dover, February Twenty-Second, Nineteen Twenty-Seven, in commemoration of the One Hundred and Ninety-Fifth Birthday of Washington”
- “Editorial ‘Fiction vs. Facts’ to Appear in the Dover State Sentinel Wednesday, March 1, 1939 in Answer to Governor McMullen’s Veto Message to Highway Reorganization Act Now Before the Delaware General Assembly”
- John P. Kelly campaign letter, November 1968
- “The People’s Legislature: The TRUTH about the record of Delaware’s 118th GENERAL ASSEMBLY”
- “Vote for George Ehinger, State Representative, 2nd District – Kent County”

LEGISLATORS’ RECORDS

The following papers and files were collected and saved by members of the Delaware state legislature.

RG 1111.003 Raymond Phillips Papers, 1938-1964

A native of the Bellefonte area, Raymond Phillips served as a member of the Delaware General Assembly in the House of Representatives for the sixth district from 1943 to 1946, and in the Senate for the third district from 1947 to 1949. His files consist of state agency annual reports and other agency publications, minutes of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, and various publications from other states. Correspondence and copies of legislation are also included.

RG 1111.004 Joseph T. Cashman Papers, 1964-1968

Joseph T. Cashman served as a representative of the 21st district. His assorted papers include a 1968 sample ballot; a map of the 10th Senatorial District; newspaper clippings concerning events in which he had an interest; a listing of Republican headquarters by district; correspondence to and from constituents, interest groups, and Republican committees; programs from conventions and events; photographs; voter registration sheets; drafts of proposals; lists of volunteers with addresses; receipts for campaign expenditures; a "Report of the Republican Party's Committee on State Finances 1966," and other campaign literature.

RG 1115.012 Catherine W. Wojewodzki Papers, 1993-1994

Catherine W. Wojewodzki represented the Newark area in the state House of Representatives. These records she maintained cover such subjects as the Clean Air Act, the Coastal Zone, corporations, the state Grange, education, forestry, foster care, gun control, health care reform, legislation, nursing, paramedic units, pensions, the public utility task force, slot machines, soil conservation, the solid waste authority, the task force on General Motors (Boxwood Plant), transportation, and telephone solicitations. The Wojewodzki papers are arranged alphabetically by subject headings and do not include an index.

RG 1115.003 Edward J. Bennett Personal Files, 1927-1987

Representative Edward J. Bennett's records include newspaper clippings, campaign literature and audio tape, invitations, programs, cards, newsletters, certificates, correspondence, photographs, legislator rosters from 1980 to 1985, and a scrapbook from 1976 to 1980.

RG 1120.005 James P. Neal Records, 1969-1986

Senator James P. Neal maintained these files on such topics as the 1969 Constitutional Revision Commission, the Coastal Zone, the Delaware Tomorrow Commission, the Delaware Monobuot (deep-water port), subsidized rental housing, and the Senate Ethics Committee investigation of Senator John Arnold.

CODE REVISION COMMISSIONS

Code revision commissions updated the Delaware law code. Records pertaining to their activities are listed below.

RG 1140.000 Revised Code Commissions – Revised Code, 1911-1914

This collection consists of annotated, typed copies of the Revised Code for the State of Delaware as issued by the Revised Code Commission. There are two complete annotated sets of the proposed revisions to the Delaware Code as prepared by the 1911 Revised Code Commission. One set appears to have been the working set of the Commission itself and is not as complete as the other, which appears to have been the Senate copy. The Senate set of the code was used by the Senate Committee of the Joint Committees on Revised Statutes of the Senate and House of Representatives. At a special session of the General Assembly on October 19, 1914, the Committee from the House of Representatives proposed that the revised code be enacted into law and be duly approved by the governor. Upon enactment of the law, the approved code was published as the Revised Code of Delaware, 1915. The Revised Code of 1911 and the Senate copy each consist of eight volumes, arranged numerically by chapter and section number.

RG 1140.001 Revised Code Commissions – Letterbook, 1909-1911

The letterbook consists of “onion skin” copies of outgoing correspondence of the commission, regarding the publication of revisions to the state code. It is arranged chronologically by the date of correspondence.

RG 1140.002 Revised Code Commission – Administrative Records and Miscellaneous Papers, 1911-1917

These records document the activities and functions of the commission created to revise the state code. They consist of correspondence to and from the commission relevant to financial matters; rough notes and drafts of revised articles that give subject heading and law citation references; reports of the 1851 commissioners to revise the code; a 1913 map of Delaware printed by the State Board of Agriculture; printings of new provisions; newspaper clippings concerning the commission; and a narrative description of the electoral districts in Delaware.

RG 1140.003 Revised Code Commissions – Pay Order Book, 1909-1914

The pay order book is a record of order to the state treasurer for payments for various expenses. It shows the warrant number, the date of the warrant, the name of the payee, the amount of the warrant, the reason of payment (services rendered, rent of room, supplies), and signatures of the revised code commissioners. The pay order book is arranged numerically by warrant number. No index.

RG 1140.004 Commissions to Revise the Code – Revised Code, 1935

This is the nine-volume, typed copy of the Revised Delaware Code as altered and amended by the commission. No index.

RG 1140.006 Commissions to Revise the Code – Revised Code, 1935

These are fifteen volumes of the typewritten copies of the new 1935 code with notations of minor revisions yet to be made. No index.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

RG 9210.000-9211.000 Newspaper Collection

Area newspapers occasionally made reference to legislative news and proceedings. Consult the newspaper checklist in the research room for the holdings and locations of such papers as the *Delaware Coast News*, *Delaware Pilot*, *Delaware Republican*, *Delaware State News*, *Delawarean*, *Delmarva News*, *Dover Post*, *Leader and State Register*, *Milford Chronicle*, *Seaford Leader*, *Smyrna Times*, *State Register*, *State Sentinel*, and *Sussex Countian*. Many other titles with less extensive holdings may be found in the checklist.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING COLLECTION

RG 1325.008 Newspaper Clippings

The newspaper clipping files contain a variety of articles taken from area newspapers. The articles are unsorted originals and photocopies.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u># Items</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
5	Delaware Legislators	2	1969, 1983

5	Delaware State Legislature	5	1970, 1984-1988
6	Drinking Laws	8	1932, 1973, 1983-1984
9	Legislation	c. 166	1961-69, 1972-1975, 1985-1988, 1998
9	State Legislation	c. 65	1937, 1951, 1955, 1959, 1962-1963, 1966, 1971-1975, 1989, 1994
9	Legislature	c. 100	1970, 1972-1977, 1984, 1987, 1989-1992, 1994, 1997-1999
13	Sunset Committee	1	1989

Researchers interested in a particular legislator should consult the index to person's names in binder 68.

STATE MANUALS

The *State Manual* booklets provide an official list of state officers, boards, commissions, and county officers. They include the names of members serving in both houses of the legislature, dividing House and Senate members by county, and listing their hometowns and party affiliations. Each booklet contains an index. State Manuals are available for 1913-1918, 1927-1928, 1931-1957, 1959-1960, 1962-1965, 1967, 1969, and 1971-1976. Photocopies of portions of the State Manuals are available for 1901-1911, 1921-1926, and 1929-1930.

STATE REPORTS COLLECTION

RG 1325.147 State Reports Collection

The following table lists various publications concerning the legislature and produced by the state of Delaware.

RG #	Publishing Agency	Title of Publication	Date of Publication
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware State Pension Law As Amended	1953
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Orientation, 126th and 127th General Assembly	1971-1972
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware State Pension Law As Amended	1962
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware State Pension Law As Amended	1956
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Employment Services Advisory Council	1971
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	List of Cabinet Departments, Governor and Executive Agencies, Elective, Judicial, Legal, Legislative, etc.	1978
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	The Delaware Environmental Protection Act.	1971
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Report on the Public Schools Pupil Transportation Program	1975
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Computer Based Districts for the Delaware Legislature	1968

1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Digest of Legislation Enacted by the 128th General Assembly	1975
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Index – Delaware Code Changes Enacted into Law by the 127th General Assembly	1973-1974
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware's Legislative Council	1973-1976
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Public Hearing on House Bills No. 433 and 489	1971
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware Legislative Roster	1967-1968
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	The Delaware Legislature	1970-1974
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Delaware's Legislative Hall, History and Layout	1971, 1975, 1976
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Memorandum – Index to Code Changes	1974
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Management Audit - Department of Highways and Transportation	1974
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Legislative Council's Annual Report for Fiscal Years	1970-1971
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Public Hearing on HB #489 "An Act to amend . . . Delaware Code Relating to Public Housing"	1971
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Joint Insurance Hearing - University of Delaware	1973
1106	Legislative Reference Bureau/Legislative Council	Public Hearing on HB #433 "An Act to amend . . . Relating to Landlord-Tenant Relationships"	1971
1111	General Assembly	George Washington	1963
1111	General Assembly	Rules and Committees of the General Assembly	1907, 1909, 1911
1111	General Assembly	Appropriation – Expense of State Government	1946-1947, 1951-1953
1111	General Assembly	An Act for the Establishment of Free Schools in the State of Delaware	1829
1111	Commission to Study Sunday Laws	Report of Commission to Study Sunday Laws to General Assembly	1941
1111	General Assembly	Report of Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Rep.: To consider the advisability of passing new boulevard legislation	1913
1111	General Assembly	Report of Legislative Committee	1906

1111	General Assembly	Standing Committees of the House and Senate	1911, 1913
1111	General Assembly	State Officers and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of State of Delaware	1939
1111	General Assembly	Appropriation – State Emergency Fund	1951-1953
1111	General Assembly	Report of The Members of the 127th General Assembly - State of Delaware Bikeway Study	1974
1111	General Assembly	The Legislative Evaluation Study State Books	1971
1111	General Assembly	Improving the Legislative Process in Delaware	1973
1111	General Assembly	Remarks of George C. Hering, III, Former Speaker of House of Representatives . . .	1973
1111	General Assembly	Legislative Manual	n.d., 1951-52; 1975-1976
1111	General Assembly	Abraham Lincoln	1929
1111	General Assembly	Members of the . . . General Assembly . . . List of Legislators, Spouses' names, Delaware State Senate. 122nd, 125th, 126th.	1963, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972
1111	General Assembly	Delaware Legislative Roster	1965-1966
1111	Joint Committee to Investigate the Game and Fish Commission	Final Report of the Joint Committee to Investigate the Game and Fish Commission	1970
1111	General Assembly	A Report and Summary . . . Divesting the State's Shares of Farmers Bank Stock . . .	1974
1111	General Assembly	List of Elected Officials Congressional, Gubernatorial, 130th and 136th General Assembly Members	1979-1980, 1990-1991
1111	Joint Legislative Committee to study Sex Education in the Public Schools	Joint Legislative Committee to study Sex Education in the Public Schools	1969
1111	General Assembly	Log 126th General Assembly	1971-1972
1111	Delaware Safety Council	Report to Legislature by Delaware Safety Council (Re: Sec. 2 of House Substitute no. 1 for H.B. no. 207)	1967,1969
1111	General Assembly	Laws of the State of Delaware passed at the Special Session	1937, 1944
1111	General Assembly	Orientation, 127th General Assembly	n.d.
1111	Legislative Building Committee	Report of the Legislative Building Committee to the General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Delaware	1965-1966

1111	General Assembly	Report of the Auditing Committee to Audit Accounts of State Offices and Institutions	1914, 1919
1111	General Assembly	State of Delaware 136th General Assembly Senate Committees	1988-1991
1111	General Assembly	Digest of Legislation enacted by the 128th General Assembly	1975-1976
1111	General Assembly	A Study of State Aid for School Construction in Delaware	1970
1111	General Assembly	Report to the Senate Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Control from Shell Oil	n.d.
1111	General Assembly	Merging Traditions and the Ideology of The American Revolution and the Development of the Delaware General Assembly	n.d.
1111	Legislative Pay Commission	Report of the Legislative Pay Commission	1971
1111	General Assembly	Second Report on Bipartisan Committee upon Plan for Reapportionment	1963
1111	General Assembly	Legislative Committee to monitor Evaluation of Division of Revenue	1974
1111	General Assembly	Bayard Memorial Addresses	1913
1111	General Assembly	The Delaware State Legislature, The 128th General Assembly – Senate and House	n.d.
1115	House of Representatives	House Bill #22, Intro. by Mr. Willits-Act to amend chapter 6 of the revised code of Delaware (1935) . . .	1943-1944
1115	House of Representatives	Journal of the House of Representatives Special Session of the General Assembly	1920, 1933, 1934
1115	House of Representatives	House Calendar	1931,1935, 1937, 1972, 1990
1115	House of Representatives	Journal of the House of Representatives Regular Session of the 127th G.A.	1973
1115	House of Representatives	Report of the House Operations Committee	1965
1115	House of Representatives	Rules of the House of the State of Delaware	1913-20, 1927-49, 1953-55, 1959, 1963-68
1115	House of Representatives	Report on Computerized Calendar Study	1973
1115	House of Representatives	Abandoned or Unclaimed Property, House Bill #634 as amended	1955
1120	State Senate	Journal of the State Senate, Special Session, 116 th General Assembly	1951

1120	State Senate	Journal of the State Senate at a session of the General Assembly	1943, 1953
1120	State Senate	Senate Calendar	1931, 1973-1974, 1990
1120	Senate Committee on Public Safety	Senate Committee on Public Safety, regarding and Classification of highway fatalities . . .	1971
1120	Senate Committee Investigating State Department of Welfare	Report of the Senate Committee investigating State Department of Welfare	1968
1120	State Senate	Legislative Index, 58th, 60th, 68th Legislative Day	1935, 1937
1120	State Senate	Rules of the Senate	1921, 1933-1937, 1941, 1943-1949, 1955, 1963-1965
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Legislation Required or Permitted by Enactment of Amendments to the Delaware Constitution	1973
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Report of the Revised Code Commission on the 1953 Delaware Code	1952
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Report of the Revised Code Commission	1914
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Legislative Commission on Code Revision Amendments to school code of 1919, Special Session of the General Assembly	1920
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Proposed Draft Constitution for the State of Delaware, Constitutional Revision Comm.	1969
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Proposed Constitution for the State of Delaware, Constitutional Revision Commission	1969
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Commentary on the Proposed Constitution, A Side-by-Side Comparison	1970
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Public Hearing, Joint Committee of the House and Senate, permit requirements for all heavy industry...	1974
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	Public Hearing, HB 207 An Act....Providing for the Election of Certain Judges	1973
1140	Commission to Revise the Code	First Report to Legislature on Delaware Code Revision by Revised Code Commission	1951

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- Martin, Roger A. *Memoirs of Twenty-Two Years in the Delaware State Senate*. 1995. Besides his personal reminiscences, Martin provides several useful appendices. Appendix II – Directory of Delaware Legislators provides an alphabetical listing of all legislators that served between 1776 and 1994. It includes the legislators' name, birth and death dates, the county represented, whether the individual served in the House or Senate, the years served, party affiliation, hometown, occupation, and length of service (pages 138-239). Appendix III – General Assemblies 1776-1994 lists the House and Senate members that served each year (pages 240-341). Call number F170.M37.A3x.1995
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