



ArchivesSpace

Berking, Max; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Sketch	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement of the Collection	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
Subject File	6
Senate Bills	10
Post-Senate	19

Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Max Berking Papers
ID:	apap228
Date [inclusive]:	1964-1984
Physical Description:	3.6 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Max Berking Papers, 1964-1965 collection contains materials related to Max Berking's service in the New York State Senate from 1964 to 1965.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Max Berking Papers, 1964-1965. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Berking Papers).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Sketch

Max Berking was a Democratic Party activist who served in the New York State Senate during the years 1964-1965.

Born in 1917, Berking was raised in Greenwich, Connecticut, where his grandfather was a Republican State Senator. He attended Brunswick School in Greenwich and Williams College in western Massachusetts, where he was exposed to liberal politics by the professor and columnist Max Lerner. During World War II he served on the Fair Employment Practice Committee, which worked to fight discrimination in war industries.

After the war Berking established an ad agency in Manhattan and settled in the Westchester County city of Rye, where he served as Rye Democratic Party Chairman. In 1964, Berking ran to fill the

remaining year of a four-year term as New York State Senator from the 30th District, which at that time encompassed southeastern Westchester County. He served until 1965 and was not reelected.

Following his departure from the Senate, Berking remained active in local and state politics. From 1971 to 1975 he served as chairman of the Westchester County Democratic Party. He was a lobbyist for environmental groups, a member of the Council of the State University College at Purchase, and a consultant to the Legislative Commissions on Energy Systems and Science and Technology in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1982 he retired to Northport, Florida, where he died in 1997.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials related to Max Berking's service in the New York State Senate from 1964 to 1965.

Series 1, Subject File, contains files on various subjects. These files typically contain research material and correspondence with constituents. Subjects include the proposed statewide sales tax, government intervention to save the New Haven Railroad, the debate over pornography sales on newsstands, and the establishment of Westchester Community College. This series is organized alphabetically by subject.

Series 2, Senate Bills, contains material on various New York State Senate bills with which Berking was involved. Some of these files contain notes and drafts related to the bill in question, while others just contain a print copy of the proposed bill. These files are arranged according to the serial numbers assigned to each bill by the legislature.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1: Subject File
- 2 Series 2: Senate Bills
- 3 Series 3: Post-Senate

Series 1 is organized alphabetically by subject. Series 2 is arranged according to the serial numbers assigned to each bill by the legislature. Series 3 is organized alphabetically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Tracey A. Casseus Jodi Boyle arranged and described Series 3 and separated Series 1 and 2 into different boxes. 2013 2022

Processing Information

Processed in 2009 by Nicholas Webb. Finding aid updated in 2022 by Jodi Boyle.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information

Max Berking initially donated his papers to Syracuse University in 1971. In 2006, the papers were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. In 2022, the New York State Archives transferred a small amount of material related to Max Berking's post-State Senate career to the department that had been donated by Max Berking's son Peter Berking.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Politics and Politicians
- New York (State). Legislature. Senate
- New York State

- Correspondence
- Bills, Legislative
- Senate of New-York

Collection Inventory

Subject File, 1964-1965

Physical Description: 2.4 cubic ft.

Arrangement

This series is organized alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Contents

This series contains files on various subjects. These files typically contain research material and correspondence with constituents. Subjects include the proposed statewide sales tax, government intervention to save the New Haven Railroad, the debate over pornography sales on newsstands, and the establishment of Westchester Community College.

Title/Description	Instances	
A - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 1
Aged, Problems of, 1965	Box 1	Folder 2
Alcohol, Alcoholism, 1965	Box 1	Folder 3
Alcohol - Drinking Age, 1965	Box 1	Folder 4
Alcohol - Licenses, 1964-1965	Box 1	Folder 5
Alcohol - Raise Drinking Age Letters Answered with Sample, 1965	Box 1	Folder 6
Animal/Bird Legislation, 1965	Box 1	Folder 7
B - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 8
Berking - Biographical, 1965	Box 1	Folder 9
Berking - Favors Asked, 1965	Box 1	Folder 10
Berking - "Mash Notes", 1965	Box 1	Folder 11
Berking - Meetings, Invitations, Etc., 1964-1965	Box 1	Folder 12
Berking - Personal, 1965	Box 1	Folder 13
Bills Offered Us, but Rejected, 1965	Box 1	Folder 14
Boxing, 1965	Box 1	Folder 15
Budget - Proposed State, 1965	Box 1	Folder 16
C - Miscellaneous, Undated		

	Box 1	Folder 17
Capital Punishment, 1965	Box 1	Folder 18
Children, Interests of, 1965	Box 1	Folder 19
Cigarette Labelling & Smoking, 1965	Box 1	Folder 20
Citizens' Union, 1965	Box 1	Folder 21
D - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 22
Divorce Laws, 1965	Box 1	Folder 23
E - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 24
East Hudson Parkway, 1965	Box 1	Folder 25
Education - Routine Letters on Bronston Bill, 1069-E, 1965	Box 1	Folder 26
Education Law - Bronston Bill SIL069, 1965	Box 1	Folder 27
Education Law - Tax Reserve Bill, 1965	Box 1	Folder 28
F - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 29
Firearms, 1965	Box 1	Folder 30
Firemen & Policemen, 1965	Box 1	Folder 31
Full Crew Law, 1965	Box 1	Folder 32
G - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 33
Gambling - Lotteries, 1965	Box 1	Folder 34
H - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 35
Highway Legislation, 1965	Box 1	Folder 36
Hospitals, State, 1965	Box 1	Folder 37
Housing, 1965	Box 1	Folder 38
Human Rights Legislation, 1965	Box 1	Folder 39
I - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 40
Insurance, 1965	Box 1	Folder 41
J - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 42
Job Development Authority, 1965	Box 1	Folder 43
Judiciary, 1965	Box 1	Folder 44
K - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 45
L - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 46
League of Women Voters, 1965	Box 1	Folder 47
Legislative Reform, 1965	Box 1	Folder 48

Letter to Editor Re: Hospital Unionization Bill, Undated	Box 1	Folder 49
Local Government Seminar, 1965	Box 1	Folder 50
Long Island Bridge, 1965	Box 1	Folder 51
M - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 52
Memoranda on Bills, 1965	Box 1	Folder 53
Memorandum in Support of Senate Int. No. 4204, Print 4712, by Senators Berking, Berman, Letsen, and Ohrenstein, Undated	Box 1	Folder 54
Minimum Wage, 1965	Box 1	Folder 55
Miscellaneous Letters - Various Issues - Letter "G" of Agreement Sent, 1965	Box 1	Folder 56
Miscellaneous Letters - Various Issues - Letter "K" Hedge Sent, Undated	Box 1	Folder 57
N - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 1	Folder 58
Narcotics, 1965	Box 1	Folder 59
New Haven Railroad, 1965	Box 2	Folder 1
New Haven Railroad - Article Reprint, 1965	Box 2	Folder 2
New Haven Railroad - Helpers, 1965	Box 2	Folder 3
New Haven Railroad - Municipal Resolutions, 1965	Box 2	Folder 4
New Haven Railroad - Original Bill Drafts, 1965	Box 2	Folder 5
New Haven Railroad - Releases, 1965	Box 2	Folder 6
New Haven Railroad - Routine, 1965	Box 2	Folder 7
New Haven Railroad - Routine Letters Answered - Sample "D", Undated	Box 2	Folder 8
New Rochelle Parking Authority, 1965	Box 2	Folder 9
News Clipping - Local Action on "Teenage Drinks", Undated	Box 2	Folder 10
Newsletter, 1964-1965	Box 2	Folder 11
Noise Abatement, Undated	Box 2	Folder 12
Norman - Actions to be Taken, 1964-1965	Box 2	Folder 13
O - Miscellaneous, Undated	Box 2	Folder 14
Off-Track Betting, Undated	Box 2	Folder 15
Opticians, Optometrists Etc., 1965	Box 2	Folder 16
P - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 2	Folder 17
Penal Law, 1965	Box 2	Folder 18
Playland, 1965	Box 2	Folder 19

Pornography, 1965	Box 2	Folder 20
Pornography Letters Answered Routinely and by Pool Sample H, 1965	Box 2	Folder 21
Poverty, 1965	Box 2	Folder 22
Press Release: "Berking Hits Sales Tax as Bad for County", Undated	Box 2	Folder 23
Prisons (Crime, etc.), 1965	Box 2	Folder 24
Public Health, 1965	Box 2	Folder 25
Public Works, 1965	Box 2	Folder 26
Pure Waters Program, 1965	Box 2	Folder 27
Q - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 2	Folder 28
R - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 2	Folder 29
Reapportionment, 1965	Box 2	Folder 30
Retailers, 1965	Box 2	Folder 31
Rye - City & Town, 1965	Box 2	Folder 32
S - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 2	Folder 33
School Assessment Bill, 1965	Box 2	Folder 34
Schools - Education Law, Undated	Box 2	Folder 35
Schools - Out of State Scholarships, 1965	Box 2	Folder 36
Schools - Requests for College Admissions, 1965	Box 2	Folder 37
Schools - Shared Time, 1965	Box 2	Folder 38
Schools - SUNY - Westchester, 1965	Box 2	Folder 39
Schools - Teachers (Current), 1965	Box 2	Folder 40
Schools - Teachers (Retired), 1965	Box 2	Folder 41
Schools - Westchester Community College, 1965	Box 2	Folder 42
State Conservation Department Annual Report, 1965	Box 2	Folder 43
State Investigation Commission, 1965	Box 2	Folder 44
Storm King Mountain Project, 1965	Box 3	Folder 1
Strikebreaker Bill, 1965	Box 3	Folder 2
Surplus Food, 1965	Box 3	Folder 3
Taxes - Auto and Gas Taxes - Answered by Sample C, 1965	Box 3	Folder 4
Taxes - Proposed Cigarette Tax, 1965	Box 3	Folder 5
Taxes - Proposed Sales Tax, 1965	Box 3	Folder 6

Taxes - Sales Tax Letters Answered by #1 Sample Letter, 1965	Box 3	Folder 7
Taxes - Sales Tax Letters Answered by #2 Sample Letter, 1965	Box 3	Folder 8
Taxes - Sales Tax Mailing, 8/1/65, 1965	Box 3	Folder 9
Textbooks (Fair, Shared-Time, Minority), 1965	Box 3	Folder 10
Town Manager Bill, 1965	Box 3	Folder 11
"Truth in Leading" Legislation, 1965	Box 3	Folder 12
Venereal Disease, 1965	Box 3	Folder 13
W - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 3	Folder 14
Welfare, Social, 1965	Box 3	Folder 15
XYZ - Miscellaneous, 1965	Box 3	Folder 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Senate Bills, 1965

Physical Description: 1.0 cubic ft.

Arrangement

These files are arranged according to the serial numbers assigned to each bill by the legislature.

Scope and Contents

This series contains material on various New York State Senate bills with which Berking was involved. Some of these files contain notes and drafts related to the bill in question, while others just contain a print copy of the proposed bill. These files are arranged according to the serial numbers assigned to each bill by the legislature.

Title/Description	Instances	
Print. 112, 2049 / Intro. 112 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Regents College Scholarships and Fellowships, 1965	Box 1	Folder 1
Print. 465 / Intro. 465 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Permitting Attendance by Regents Scholarship Recipients at Approved Colleges and Universities within the United States, 1965	Box 1	Folder 2
Print. S. 565, 4194, A. 1238, 6103 / Intro S. 565, A. 1238 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Making it Optional for Certain School Districts to Maintain a Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, 1965	Box 1	Folder 3
Print. 575 / Intro. 575 - To Amend the Mental Hygiene Law, in Relation to Construction Costs Subject to State Reimbursement for Community Mental Health Services, 1965	Box 1	Folder 4
Print. 576 / Intro. 576 - To Amend the Mental Hygiene Law, in Relation to Expenditures Subject to State Reimbursement for Community Mental Health Services, 1965	Box 1	Folder 5

Print S. 583, A. 1321 / Intro. S. 583, A. 1321 - To Amend the Navigation Law and the Code of Criminal Procedure, in Relation to Enforcement of Navigation Laws by Cities, Towns, and Villages, 1965	Box 1	Folder 6
Print. 646 / Intro. 646 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Power of Boards of Education to Ban Fraternities and Sororities in High Schools, 1965	Box 1	Folder 7
Print. 647 / Intro. 647 - To Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in Relation to Local Option for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premise Consumption Between Certain Hours, 1965	Box 1	Folder 8
Print. 772 / Intro. 772 - To Authorize and Empower the City of Rye to Convey to the Rye Free Reading Room a Portion of Certain Lands Acquired by the City of Rye for Park Purposes, 1965	Box 1	Folder 9
Print. 773 / Intro. 773 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to Providing an Electrical Roll Call Apparatus to Record the Votes of Members of the Legislature, 1965	Box 1	Folder 10
Print. 774 / Intro. 774 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to Establishing the Hours of the Day when the Senate and/or Assembly Shall Not Be in Session, 1965	Box 1	Folder 11
Print. 775 / Intro. 775 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to the Right of the Ranking Minority Members of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly to Attend Hearings and Make Inquiries on Estimates for and Revision of the Budget, 1965	Box 1	Folder 12
Print. 776 / Intro. 776 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to the Authorizing the Consideration of Bills by the Legislature Without Reintroduction Thereof During the Second Year of the Term of Such Legislature, 1965	Box 1	Folder 13
Print. 777 / Intro. 777 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to the Publication of Verbatim Transcripts of the Proceedings of the Legislature, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 1	Folder 14
Print. 778 / Intro. 778 - To Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to Authorizing the Establishment of a Youth Training Corps to Provide Training and Employment for Young Men in the Various State Departments and Agencies, Authorizing Local Area Youth Employment Programs, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 1	Folder 15
Print. 779 / Intro. 779 - To Amend the Public Authorities Law, in Relation to the Establishment of the Commuter Railroad Authority, Defining its Powers and Duties, Providing for Advances and Other Assistance Thereto, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 1	Folder 16
Print. 1075 / Intro. 1076 - To Amend the Railroad Law, in Relation to the Establishment of the New York Transportation	Box 1	Folder 17

Agency, Defining its Powers and Duties, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965

Print. 1076, 2250 / Intro. 1076 - To Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to Definition of "Non-Profitmaking or Residential Care Center", 1965	Box 1	Folder 18
Print. 1414 / Intro. 1400 - To Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to Increasing the Statutory Minimum Wage to One Dollar Fifty Cents an Hour, 1965	Box 1	Folder 19
Print. 2276 / Intro. 2209 - To Amend the Social Welfare Law, in Relation to Powers and Duties of the Commissioner and Board of Social Welfare, 1965	Box 1	Folder 20
Print. 2474 / Intro. 2387 - To Amend Chapter One Hundred Four of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Thirty-Six, Entitled "An Act Providing for the Establishment, Organization, and Operation of Police Departments in the Towns of Westchester County," in Relation to Privileges and Immunities of Town Policemen in Such County, 1965	Box 1	Folder 21
Print. 2475 / Intro. 2388 - To Amend the Village Law, in Relation to Certain Acts of Village Policemen in Westchester County, 1965	Box 1	Folder 22
Print. 2689 / Intro. 2570 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Powers of Boards of Education to Abolish and Ban Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies in Secondary Schools, 1965	Box 1	Folder 23
Print. 2690 / Intro. 2571 - To Amend the Legislative Law, in Relation to Code of Ethics, Undated	Box 1	Folder 24
Print. 2691 / Intro. 2572 - Creating a Temporary State Commission to Make a Comprehensive Study of Existing State and Local Laws, Regulations and Codes Relating to Standards for Existing Housing Throughout the State to Determine the Adequacy and Effectiveness Thereof for the Protection and Advancement of the Public Health, Safety and General Welfare and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 1	Folder 25
Print. 2692 / Intro. 2573 - To Authorize and Empower the Town of Mamaroneck to Convey a Parcel of Park Land to the Board of Education, Union Free School District No. 1, Town of Mamaroneck, Westchester County, New York, for Educational Purposes, Undated	Box 1	Folder 26
Print S.2886, A. 4880 / Intro. S.2745, A. 4757 - To Amend the Public Authorities Law, in Relation to Providing Penalties for Violations of the Law and Regulations Respecting the Erection and Maintenance of Advertising Devices, 1965	Box 1	Folder 27
Print. S. 2887, A. 4881 / Intro. S. 2746, A. 4758 - To Amend the Public Authorities Law, in Relation to Granting Rights to the Use and Occupancy of Real Property of the New York State Thruway Authority, 1965	Box 1	Folder 28
Print. 2908, 4909 / Intro. 2752 - To Amend the Social Welfare Law, in Relation to Day Care for Certain Children and Providing	Box 1	Folder 29

State Reimbursement Therefor in Certain Cases and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965

Print. 2909, 4185 / Intro. 2753 - To Amend the Social Welfare Law, in Relation to Eligibility for Medical Assistance for the Aged, Services Included in Such Assistance, Legal Responsibility of Relatives in Connection with Such Assistance, and Burial Reserves for Certain Applicants for or Recipients of Such Assistance, 1965	Box 1	Folder 30
Print. 3063, 3139 / Intro. 2907 - To Amend the Labor Law, in Relation to Increasing the Statutory Minimum Wage to One Dollar and Fifty Cents Per Hour, 1965	Box 1	Folder 31
Print. 3127 / Intro. 2970 - To Amend the State Finance Law, in Relation to Commencing the Fiscal Year of the State on July First, Nineteen Hundred Sixty-Five, 1965	Box 1	Folder 32
Print. 3192 / Intro. 2015 - To Amend the Public Authorities Law, in Relation to the Creation of the City of New Rochelle Parking Authority, 1965	Box 1	Folder 33
Print. 3193 / Intro. 3016 - To Amend Chapter Four Hundred Thirty of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Thirty Eight, Entitled "An Act to Authorize and Enable the Village of Larchmont and the Town Board of the Town of Mamaroneck, Acting for Refuse and Garbage District Number one of the Town of Mamaroneck, County of Westchester, Jointly to Construct and Maintain an Incineration Disposal Plant for Refuse and Garbage in the Town of Mamaroneck, Westchester County, and to Severally Issue Bonds or Other Obligations to Defray the Cost Thereof, and to Validate the Establishment of Refuse and Garbage District Number One of the Town of Mamaroneck," in Relation to Appointments of Members of the Joint Board of Control of the Incinerator Plant Jointly Operated by the Village of Larchmont and the Town of Mamaroneck, 1965	Box 1	Folder 34
Print. 3310 / Intro. 3124 - To Amend Chapter Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Eight, Entitled "An Act Creating a Temporary State Commission of Investigation; Prescribing its Functions, Powers, and Duties; Marking an Appropriation Therefor, Abolishing the Office of Commissioner of Investigation and Repealing the Provisions of the Executive Law with Respect Thereto; and Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, in Relation to the Designation of investigators of Such Commission as Peace Officers," in Relation to Extending the Provisions of Such Chapter and the Existence of Such Commission Until April Thirtieth, Nineteen Hundred Seventy, and to the Qualifications of the Members of Such Commission, 1965	Box 1	Folder 35
Print. 3311, 4230 / Intro. 3155 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to the Number of Years Required for a Course in a School of Podiatry Leading to a Doctor's Degree in Podiatry, 1965	Box 1	Folder 36
Print. 3362 / Intro. 3155 - To Amend the Election Law, in Relation to the Future Statewide Application of Permanent Personal Registration, 1965	Box 1	Folder 37

Print. S. 3464, A. 5311 / Intro. S.3240, A.5085 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to the Powers and Duties of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, 1965	Box 1	Folder 38
Print. 3475 / Intro. 3251 - To Amend the Workmen's Compensation Law, in Relation to Increasing Compensation Benefits in Disability and Death Cases, 1965	Box 1	Folder 39
Print. 3479 / Intro. 3255 - To Amend the Penal Law, in Relation to Offense for One under Twenty-One Years of Age to Purchase of Attempt to Purchase Alcoholic Beverages through Fraudulent Means, in Certain Cities or Towns, 1965	Box 1	Folder 40
Print. 3480 / Intro. 3256 - To Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in Relation to Local Option for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to Persons Under Twenty-One Years of Age, 1965	Box 1	Folder 41
Print. 3501 / Intro. 3277 - To Amend the State Finance Law, in Relation to the Certification or Approval of Accounts and Vouchers of State Departments and Agencies, 1965	Box 1	Folder 42
Print. S. 3501, 5607, 5955, A.5404 / Intro. S. 3304, A.5174 - To Amend the Real Property Tax Law, in Relation to Allowing School Districts to Expedite the Assessing of New Construction in Rapid-Growth School Districts, 1965	Box 1	Folder 43
Print. 3526 / Intro. 3302 - Creating a Temporary State Commission with Respect to the Apportionment and Districting of the State Legislature and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 1	Folder 44
Print. 3566 / Intro. 3328 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Transportation for Emotionally Disturbed Children, 1965	Box 1	Folder 45
Print. 3567 / Intro. 3329 - To Amend the Highway Law, in Relation to Awarding of Contracts; to Purchasing of Materials and Equipment; and to Rental of Road Machinery for Highway Purposes, 1965	Box 1	Folder 46
Print. 3568 / Intro. 3330 - To Repeal Section One Hundred Thirty-Two of the Highway Law, in Relation to Reports of Expenditure of County Road Fund Moneys, 1965	Box 1	Folder 47
Print. 3569 / Intro. 3331 - To Amend the Town Lawn, in Relation to Fire District Taxes, 1965	Box 1	Folder 48
Print. 3648 / Intro. 3377 - To Amend the Real Property Tax Law, in Relation to Granting Partial Exemption from Taxation for School Tax Purposes, for the Real Property Owned by Certain Persons with Limited Income Who Are Sixty-Five Years of Age or Over, Undated	Box 1	Folder 49
Print. 3700 / Intro. 3429 - Changing the Corporate Name of Westchester Joint Water Works No. 1, 1965	Box 1	Folder 50
Print. 3701, 4453 / Intro. 3430 - To Amend the General Municipal Law, in Relation to Grievance Procedures for Employees of Political Subdivisions of the State Outside the City of New York	Box 1	Folder 51

and Repealing Subdivision Nine of Section Six Hundred Eighty-Four Thereof, 1965

Print. 3745 / Intro. 3474 - To Amend the Civil Service Law, in Relation to Health Insurance for State and Retired State Employees, 1965	Box 1	Folder 52
Print. 3746, 5288 / Intro. 3475 - To Amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in Relation to the Prevention of Excessive Noise of Motor Vehicles, 1965	Box 1	Folder 53
Print. 3790 / Intro. 3500 - To Amend the Civil Service Law, in Relation to Health Insurance for State and Retired State Employees, 1965	Box 1	Folder 54
Print. 3797 / Intro. 3507 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Residence Requirements for the Purpose of Qualifying for Examinations as Present Practitioners of Chiropractic in this State, 1965	Box 2	Folder 1
Print. 3810 / Intro. 3520 - To Amend Chapter Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Four, as Amended by Chapter Seven Hundred Thirty-Three of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Seven Entitled "An Act in Relation to Continuing the City Court of New Rochelle, Defining its Powers and Jurisdiction and the Procedure Therein and Repealing Chapter Four Hundred Ninety-Nine of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Thirty-One, Entitled 'An Act in Relation to the City Court of New Rochelle'" in Relation to Creating Two Full-Time City Judges, Definitions, City Court Clerk, Interpreter, Stenographer, Marshal, and Deputy Marshal, Other Employees, Duties and Powers, Temporary Acting City Judge, Death or Removal of Judges, Juries, Criminal Jurisdiction, Small Claims and Jury Fees for Small Claims, 1965	Box 2	Folder 2
Print. 3959 / Intro. 3646 - To Amend the Retirement and Social Security Law, in Relation to Retirement of Members of the Westchester County Parkway Police Force, 1965	Box 2	Folder 3
Print. 4233 / Intro. 3843 - To Repeal Section Fifty-Four-A, Section Fifty-Four-B, and Section Fifty-Four-C of the Railroad Law, Relation to Crews for Certain Trains, Engines, and Railroad Operations and to Provide Jobs Protection by Normal Attrition, 1965	Box 2	Folder 4
Print. 4257 / Intro. 3865 - To Repeal Subdivision Four of Section Four Hundred Fifty-Seven of the Public Authorities Law, Relation to Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property, 1965	Box 2	Folder 5
Print. 4276 / Intro. 3884 - To Amend the Retirement and Social Security Law, in Relation to Retirement of Officers Who Are Transferees from Another Department of Force, 1965	Box 2	Folder 6
Print. 4277 / Intro. 3885 - To Amend Chapter Eight Hundred Fifty-One of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Forty-Nine, Entitled "An Act to Establish a Police Justice Court in the Village of Port Chester and to Repeal Chapter One Hundred Six of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Six, Entitled 'An Act Creating the Offices of Police Justice and Assistant Police Justice, in the Village of	Box 2	Folder 7

Port Chester, in the County of Westchester, and to Provide for Raising Annually an Amount Sufficient to Pay the Salaries of Said Officers,' Relating to Creating the Offices of Police Justice and Assistant Police Justice of the Village of Port Chester," in Relation to the Appointment of An Additional Village Marshal, and Repealing Section Sixteen-A of Such Chapter Relating to the Appointment and Duties of a Deputy Village Marshal, 1965

Print. 4291 / Intro. 3899 - Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly: Proposing an Amendment to Section Eight of Article Seven of the Constitution, in Relation to Providing that Legislature's Power to Authorize the Loan of Money of the State to a Public Corporation for the Purpose of Making Secured Loans to Non-Profit Corporations to Finance Construction of New Industrial or Manufacturing Plants in this State or the Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or Improvement of Former Industrial or Manufacturing Plants in this State Shall be Extended so as to Provide Improved Job Opportunities in any Part of the State, Rather than Only in the Areas of the State Where Unemployment Is or May Become a Critical Problem, 1965	Box 2	Folder 8
Print. 4331 / Intro. 3913 - To Amend The Civil Practice Law and Rules, in Relation to Venue in Actions Brought Against School Districts and District Corporations, 1965	Box 2	Folder 9
Print. 4394 / Intro. 3953 - To Amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in Relation to Selling Preheated Bituminous Road Oil, Tar, and Allied Products by Net Weight to Any Municipal Corporation or Special District in the State of New York, 1965	Box 2	Folder 10
Print. 4395 / Intro. 3954 - To Amend the Education Law in Relation to Absentee Voting at School District Elections, 1965	Box 2	Folder 11
Print. 4396 / Intro. 3955 - To Amend the General Business Law, in Relation to the Manufacture of Refrigerators, Iceboxes and Similar Containers, 1965	Box 2	Folder 12
Print. 4397 / Intro. 3956 - To Amend the Highway Law, in Relation to Additional Payments by State, 1965	Box 2	Folder 13
Print. 4938 / Intro. 3957 - To Amend the Personal Property Law, in Relation to Duty of Police to Keep Lost Property Having a Value of One Hundred Dollars or Less, 1965	Box 2	Folder 14
Print. 4399 / Intro. 3958 - To Amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in Relation to the Abandonment of Motor Vehicles, 1965	Box 2	Folder 15
Print. 4400 / Intro. 3959 - To Amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in Relation to Traffic Regulations on County Roads, 1965	Box 2	Folder 16
Print. 4401 / Intro. 3960 - To Amend the Village Law, in Relation to Absentee Voting, 1965	Box 2	Folder 17
Print. 4495 / Intro. 4201 - To Amend the State Finance Law, in Relation to Payment of State Assistance to Westchester County Instead of to Certain Public Corporations in Which Railroad Property is Partially Exempt from Taxation, 1965	Box 2	Folder 18
Print. 4563 / Intro. 4089 - To Amend the General Municipal Law, in Relation to Commissions on Human Rights, 1965	Box 2	Folder 19

Print. 4564 / Intro. 4090 - To Amend the Local Finance Law, in Relation to Vote on Proposition for the Approval of a Bond Resolution or Capital Note Resolution, 1965	Box 2	Folder 20
Print. 4565 / Intro. 4091 - To Amend the Education Law, to Give the Trustees of the University of the State of New York the Power of Condemnation, 1965	Box 2	Folder 21
Print. 4566 / Intro. 4092 - To Amend the Education law, in Relation to Remedial, Psychiatric, Psychological and Social Work Services, 1965	Box 2	Folder 22
Print. 4567 / Intro. 4093 - To Repeal Subdivision Four of Section Four Hundred Fifty-Seven of the Public Authorities Law, Relating to Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property, 1965	Box 2	Folder 23
Print. 4568 / Intro. 4094 - To Amend the County Law to Provide for a Share of State Collected Taxes to Be Paid to Certain Counties for Providing Indigent Persons with Legal Assistance and Representation in Criminal Matters, 1965	Box 2	Folder 24
Print. 4646 / Intro. 4138 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to the Apportionment of Public Moneys to School Districts, 1965	Box 2	Folder 25
Print. 4668 / Intro. 4160 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Increasing the Maximum Award for Regents College Scholarships, 1965	Box 2	Folder 26
Print. 4669 / Intro. 4161 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Increasing the Number of Regents College Scholarships, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 2	Folder 27
Print. 4694 / Intro. 4186 - To Amend the Banking Law, in Relation to Advertising of Interest Rates by Licensed Lenders and Prepayment of Loans Made by Licensed Lenders, 1965	Box 2	Folder 28
Print. 4695 / Intro. 4187 - To Amend the Banking Law, in Relation to Interest Charges by Licensed Lenders, 1965	Box 2	Folder 29
Print. 4696 / Intro. 4188 - To Amend the Multiple Dwelling Law, in Relation to Requiring Corporate Owners of Multiple Dwellings and certain Stockholders Thereof to File Names and Addresses of Shareholders in Certain Cases, 1965	Box 2	Folder 30
Print. 4697 / Intro. 4189 - To Amend the Military law and the Retirement and Social Security Law, in Relation to Retirement Benefits of Certain State Military Personnel, 1965	Box 2	Folder 31
Print. 4698 / Intro. 4190 - To Amend the Penal Law, in Relation to the Sale to Minors of Certain Pictures, Motion Pictures, Photographs, Books, Pamphlets, or Magazines, 1965	Box 2	Folder 32
Print. 4699 / Intro. 4191 - To Amend the Penal Law, in Relation to Possession of Antique Firearms, 1965	Box 2	Folder 33
Print. 4700 / Intro. 4192 - To Amend the Navigation Law, in Relation to Speed and Reckless Operation of Vessels, 1965	Box 2	Folder 34

Print. 4701 / Intro. 4193 - To Amend the Transportation Corporations Law, in Relation to Prohibiting the Discontinuance of Utilities in Multiple Dwellings, 1965	Box 2	Folder 35
Print. 4702 / Intro. 4194 - To Amend the General Corporation Law, in Relation to Filing names and Addresses of All Officers, 1965	Box 2	Folder 36
Print. 4703 / Intro. 4195 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to State Aid for Library Systems, 1965	Box 2	Folder 37
Print. 4704 / Intro. 4196 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Authorizing Pre-Kindergarten Programs, and Making Provisions Therefor in the Computation of Weighted Average Daily Attendance, 1965	Box 2	Folder 38
Print. 4705 / Intro. 4197 - To Amend the Education Law, in Relation to Part-Time Enrollment in Public Schools, 1965	Box 2	Folder 39
Print. 4706 / Intro. 4198 - To Amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in Relation to the Initial Issuance of a License to Sell Liquor at Retail Not to be Consumed on the Premises, 1965	Box 2	Folder 40
Print. 4707 / Intro. 4199 - Creating a Temporary State Commission to Study Consumer Credit Labeling in Terms of Simple Annual Interest, Make Recommendations in Connection Therewith, and Making an Appropriation Therefor, 1965	Box 2	Folder 41
Print. 4708 / Intro. 4200 - To Amend the Executive Law, in Relation to Empowering the State Commission for Human Rights to Eliminate and Prevent Discrimination in Mortgage Financing and the Insurance Business Because of Race, Creed, Color, or National Origin, 1965	Box 2	Folder 42
Print. 4709 / Intro. 4201 - To Amend the Insurance Law, in Relation to the Commission Payable Under a Plan for Assignment of Liability Insurance, 1965	Box 2	Folder 43
Print. 4710 / Intro. 4202 - To Amend the Insurance Law, in Relation to Extending the Section to Agents, 1965	Box 2	Folder 44
Print. 4711 / Intro. 4203 - To Amend the County Government Law of Nassau County, in Relation to Establishing Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Pleasure Vessels in Nassau County, 1965	Box 2	Folder 45
Print. 4712 / Intro. 4204 - Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly: Proposing Amendments to Article Three of the Constitution, in Relation to the Number of Senators and Assemblymen and the Method of Creating Districts for their Election, 1965	Box 2	Folder 46
Print. 4713 / Intro. 4205 - To Amend the Judiciary Law, in Relation to State Aid to the Counties of Nassau and Suffolk for Certain Court Expenses, 1965	Box 2	Folder 47
Print. 4714 / Intro. 4206 - To Amend the Personal Property Law, in Relation to Retail Installment Contracts to Permit Cancellation by the Buyer, Prior to the Receipt of Goods and Services, for	Box 3	Folder 1

Failure of the Seller to Itemize the Amount of the Credit Service Charge, 1965

Print. 4715 / Intro. 4207 - To Amend the Personal Property Law, in Relation to Retention of Fees by Attorneys, 1965	Box 3	Folder 2
Print. 4716 / Intro. 4208 - To Amend the Real Property Law and the Penal Law, in Relation to Requiring the Payment of Interest on Security Deposits under Leases of Real Property, 1965	Box 3	Folder 3
Print. 4717 / Intro. 4209 - To Amend the Public Health Law, in Relation to State Reimbursement of Expenditures by Counties and Cities, 1965	Box 3	Folder 4
Print. 4718 / Intro. 4210 - To Amend the Social Welfare law, in Relation to Liability of Relatives to Support Recipient of Public Welfare Assistance, 1965	Box 3	Folder 5
Print. 4719 / Intro. 4211 - To Amend Chapter Two Hundred Thirty-Six of the Laws of Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Two, Entitled "An Act to Enable Certain Counties and Cities to Impose a Tax on Admissions to Running Horse Race Meetings and Providing for the Collection and Administration of Such Tax," in Relation to the imposition and Distribution of Such Tax on All Admissions, 1965	Box 3	Folder 6
Print. 5309 / Intro. 4469 - To Authorize and Empower the Village of Port Chester to Convey to the Port Chester Public Library a Portion of Certain Lands Acquired by the Village of Port Chester for Park Purposes, 1965	Box 3	Folder 7
Print. 5803 / Intro. 4649 - To Amend the Town Law, in Relation to the Adoption of a Town Manager Form of Government, and Defining Procedures Therefor and the Powers and Duties of Such Town Manager, 1965	Box 3	Folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Post-Senate, 1971-1984

Physical Description: .2 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials related to Max Berking's post-Senate career as a consultant, lobbyist, and political party leader in the 1970s and early 1980s. It consists of correspondence, including with New York governors and New York City mayors, legislation he worked on, ideas he proposed to legislators, and testimony.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bill for Public Relations Purposes Idea, 1975	Box 1	Folder 1
Consumer Protection/Inflation, 1979Undated	Box 1	Folder 2

Correspondence, Governor Hugh Carey and His Office, 1974-19761978-1979	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence, Governor Malcolm Wilson, 1974	Box 1	Folder 4
Correspondence, Mayor Abraham Beame, 1974	Box 1	Folder 5
Correspondence, Mayor John V. Lindsey, 19711973	Box 1	Folder 6
Council for the State University College at Purchase, 1976	Box 1	Folder 7
Electric Cars, 1979	Box 1	Folder 8
Energy, 19751980-1981Undated	Box 1	Folder 9
Energy and Transportation, Undated	Box 1	Folder 10
Environment, 19711979	Box 1	Folder 11
Legislation Berking Worked On, 19751978Undated	Box 1	Folder 12
Legislative Commission on Energy Systems, 1976-1979Undated	Box 1	Folder 13
Legislative Commission on Science and Technology, 1979-1980	Box 1	Folder 14
Missing Children, 1984	Box 1	Folder 15
New York State Democratic Committee, Westchester County Chairman's Card, 1974	Box 1	Folder 16
"Session Day of the Week," Idea, 1975	Box 1	Folder 17
Testimony by Max Berking on the Freshwater Wetlands Management Act Before the New York State Senate Subcommittee, 1974 September 18	Box 1	Folder 18

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)