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PUBLIC HEARING

before

ASSEMBLY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

on

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 55

Held April 11, 1983
Room 420
State House Annex
Trenton, New Jersey

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Buddy Fortunato (Chairman)
Assemblyman S. M. Terry LaCorte
Assemblyman William P. Schuber

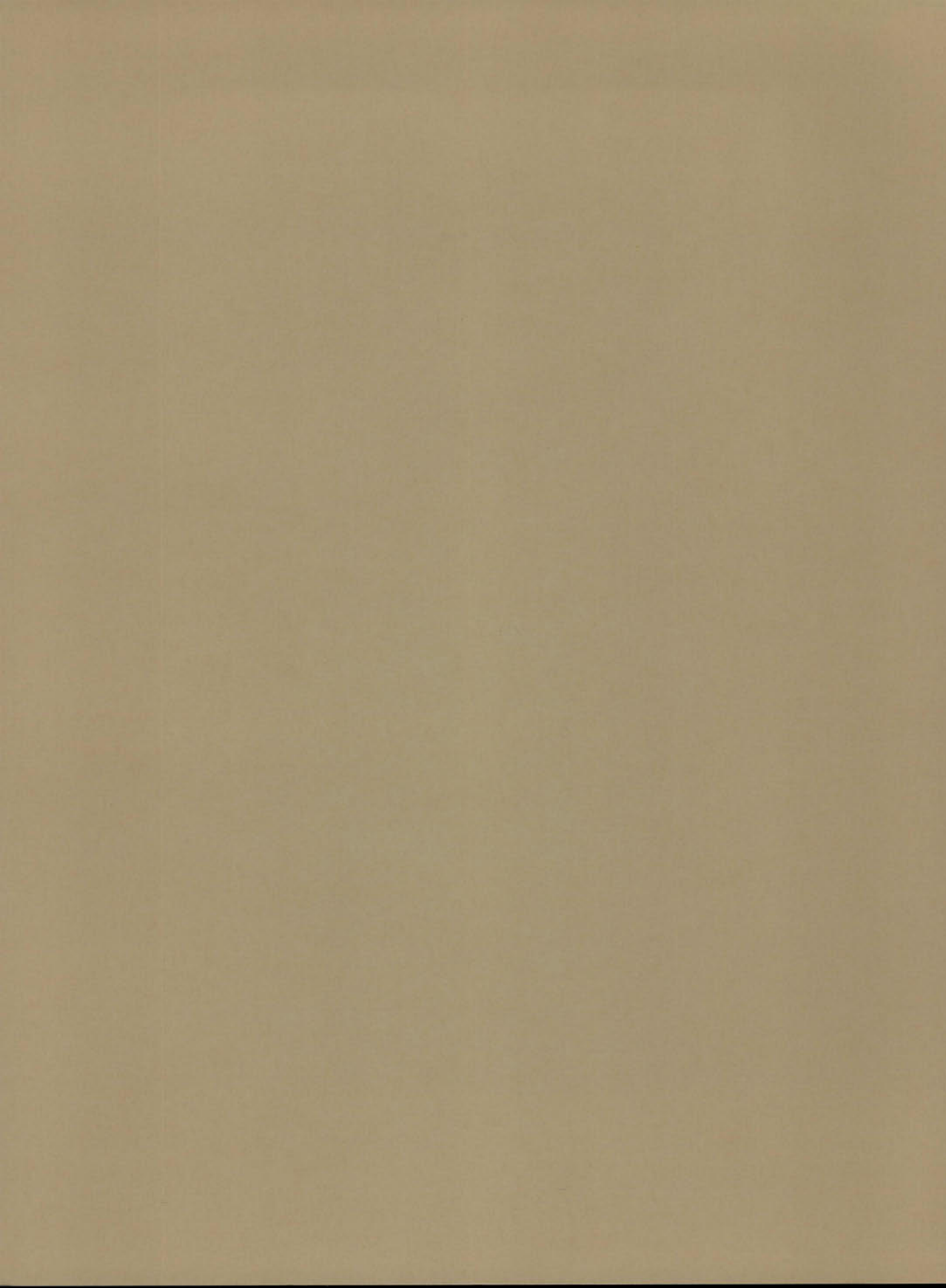
ALSO PRESENT:

Wayne L. Bockelman, Team Supervisor
Office of Legislative Services
Aide. Assembly Independent Authorities and Commissions Committee

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LIBRARY

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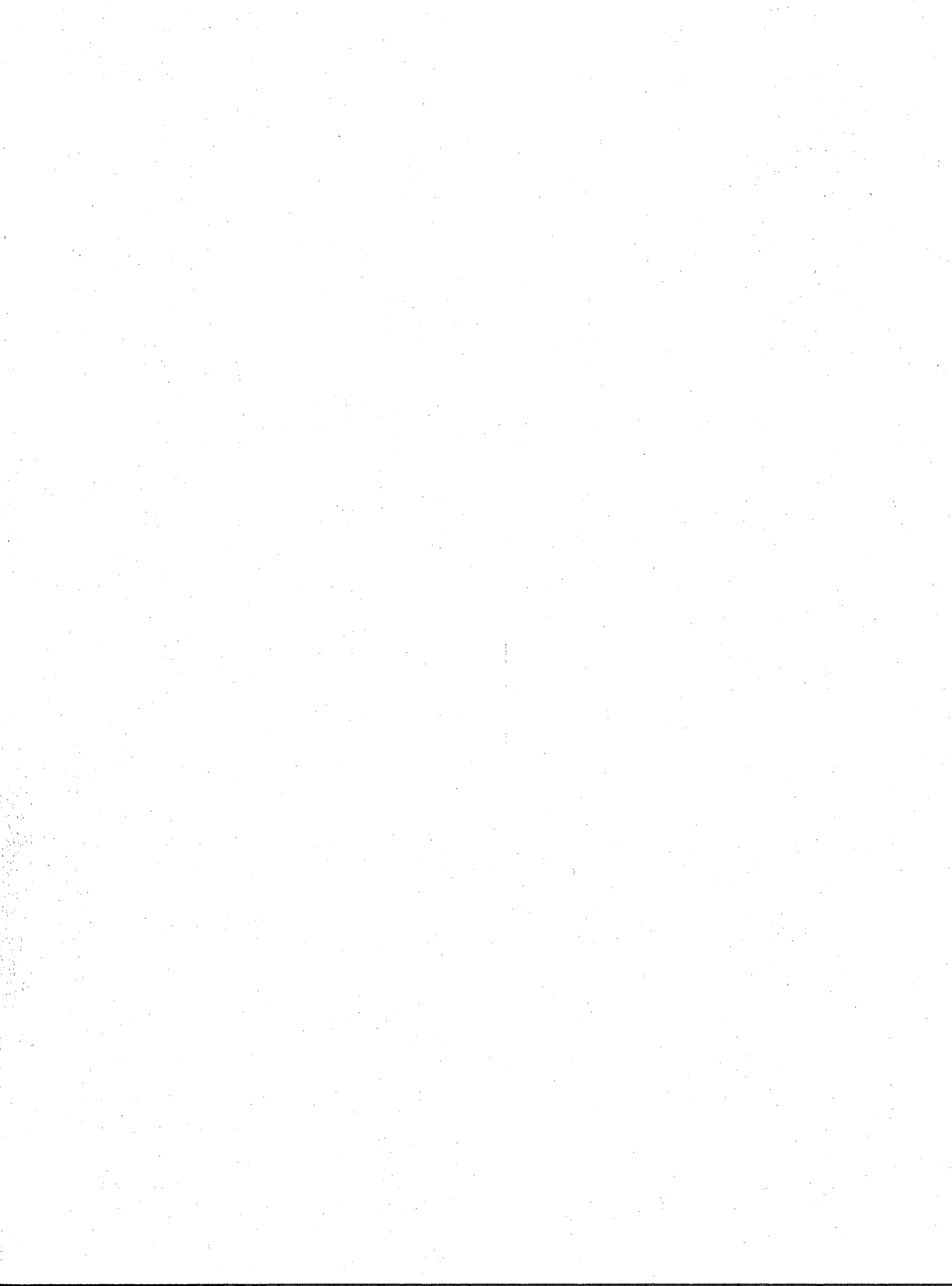


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Assemblyman Robert E. Littell District 24	1

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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 55

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 1982

By Assemblymen LITTELL and HAYTAIAN

Referred to Committee on Independent Authorities and
Commissions

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to Article IV,
Section VII, paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

1 *BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

1 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the
2 State of New Jersey is agreed to:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

3 Amend Article IV, Section VII, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

4 2. No gambling of any kind shall be authorized by the Legisla-
5 ture unless the specific kind, restrictions and control thereof have
6 been heretofore submitted to, and authorized by a majority of the
7 votes cast by, the people at a special election or shall hereafter be
8 submitted to, and authorized by a majority of the votes cast thereon
9 by, the legally qualified voters of the State voting at a general
10 election, except that, without any such submission or authorization;

11 A. It shall be lawful for bona fide veterans, charitable, educa-
12 tional, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and service clubs,
13 senior citizen associations or clubs, volunteer fire companies and
14 first-aid or rescue squads to conduct, under such restrictions and
15 control as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Legislature
16 by law, games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling of rights
17 to participate, the awarding of prizes, in the specific kind of game
18 of chance sometimes known as bingo or lotto, played with cards
19 bearing numbers or other designations, five or more in one line,
20 the holder covering numbers as objects, similarly numbered, are
21 drawn from a receptacle and the game being won by the person
22 who first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

23 on such a card, when the entire net proceeds of such games of
24 chance are to be devoted to educational, charitable, patriotic, re-
25 ligious or public-spirited uses, and in the case of senior citizen
26 associations or clubs to the support of such organizations, in any
27 municipality, in which a majority of the qualified voters, voting
28 thereon, at a general or special election as the submission thereof
29 shall be prescribed by the Legislature by law, shall authorize the
30 conduct of such games of chance therein.

31 B. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, bona
32 fide veterans, charitable, educational, religious or fraternal organi-
33 zations, civic and service clubs, *senior citizen associations or clubs*,
34 volunteer fire companies and first-aid or rescue squads to conduct
35 games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling of rights to par-
36 ticipate, and the awarding of prizes, in the specific kinds of games
37 of chance sometimes known as raffles, conducted by the drawing
38 for prizes or by the allotment of prizes by chance, when the entire
39 net proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to educa-
40 tional, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses, and
41 *in the case of senior citizen associations or clubs to the support of*
42 *such organizations*, in any municipality, in which such law shall be
43 adopted by a majority of the qualified voters, voting thereon, at a
44 general or special election as the submission thereof shall be pre-
45 scribed by law and for the Legislature, from time to time, to restrict
46 and control, by law, the conduct of such games of chance; and

47 C. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize the conduct
48 of State lotteries restricted to the selling of rights to participate
49 therein and the awarding of prizes by drawings when the entire
50 net proceeds of any such lottery shall be for State institutions,
51 State aid for education.

52 D. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by the law
53 the establishment and operation, under regulation and control by
54 the State, of gambling houses or casinos within the boundaries, as
55 heretofore established, of the city of Atlantic City, county of
56 Atlantic, and to license and tax such operations and equipment used
57 in connection therewith. Any law authorizing the establishment and
58 operation of such gambling establishments shall provide for the
59 State revenues derived therefrom to be applied solely for the
60 purpose of providing funding for reductions in property taxes,
61 rental, telephone, gas, electric, and municipal utilities charges of
62 eligible senior citizens and disabled residents of the State, and for
63 additional or expanded health services or benefits or transportation
64 services or benefits to eligible senior citizens and disabled residents,
65 in accordance with such formulae as the Legislature shall by law

66 provide. The type and number of such casinos or gambling houses
 67 and of the gambling games which may be conducted in any such
 68 establishment shall be determined by or pursuant to the terms of
 69 the law authorizing the establishment and operation thereof.

1 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
 2 agreed to, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution,
 3 it shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
 4 occurring more than 3 months after such final agreement and shall
 5 be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each county
 6 designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
 7 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than 3
 8 months prior to said general election.

1 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be sub-
 2 mitted to the people at said election in the following manner and
 3 form:

4 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at such
 5 general election, the following:

6 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
 7 a legend which shall immediately precede the question, as follows:

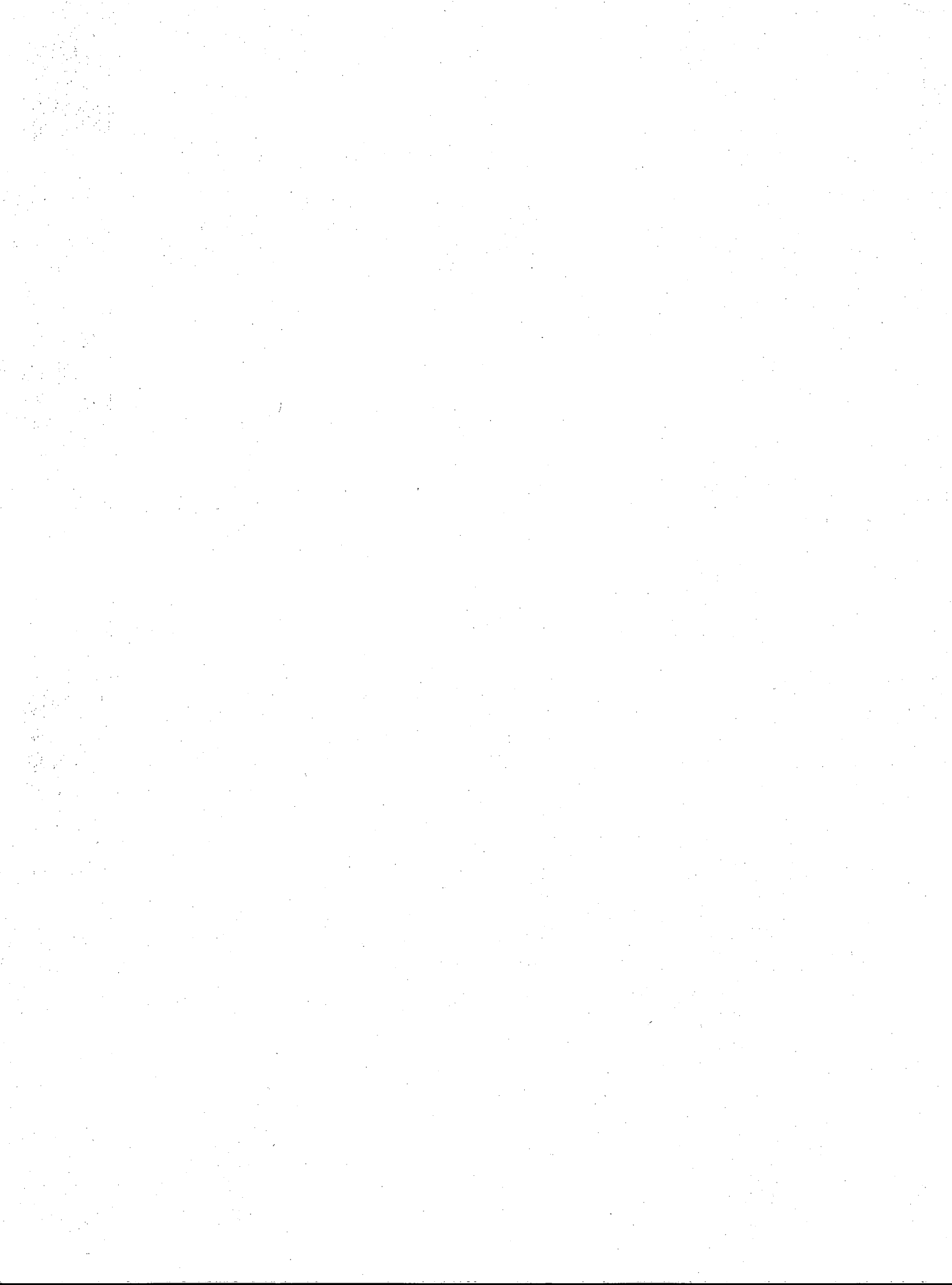
8 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X),
 9 plus (+) or check (V) in the square opposite the word "Yes."
 10 If you are opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check
 11 (V) in the square opposite the word "No."

12 b. In every municipality the following question:

	Yes.	<p>SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT RAFFLES</p> <p>Shall the Constitution be amended, as agreed to by the Legislature, to authorize senior citizen associations and clubs to conduct raffles for the support of such clubs and organizations?</p>
	No.	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>In 1972 the Constitution was amended to permit senior citizen organizations to conduct bingo games and to use the proceeds therefrom for the support of such organizations. This amendment would extend the same privilege with respect to the conducting of raffles by such organizations.</p>

STATEMENT

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is expressed in the interpretive statement.



ASSEMBLYMAN BUDDY FORTUNATO: I would like to begin this part of the public hearing regarding ACR 55, bingo proceeds, by calling on Assemblyman Littell to make his statement. I see no problem at this point.

A S S E M B L Y M A N R O B E R T E. L I T T E L L: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee. Thank you for postponing this. I was away for the weekend with my daughter to look at colleges.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 55 is a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to include senior citizen clubs and organizations in the provision of the Constitution that would allow them to hold raffles, as well as bingo. When the Constitution was amended in 1972 to allow senior citizens' clubs and organizations to hold bingo and lotto, for some reason, they did not include raffles.

I don't know of any valid reason for them not to be able to hold raffles, and they would like to be able to hold them. That is the whole purpose and intent of my constitutional amendment.

I believe we have complied with all of the constitutional requirements of sending out the proper notices. I think Mr. Bockelman has distributed copies of the proposed constitutional amendment to the members of both houses of the Legislature when they were in session. The only other comment I have is a letter from Robert Callahan, the Executive Director of the Office on Aging in Sussex County. He says:

"Dear Assemblyman Littell:

"On behalf of the senior citizens and senior citizen clubs of Sussex County, I would like to thank you for sponsoring ACR-55 authorizing the constitutional amendment to allow senior citizens clubs and organizations to hold raffles.

"The monies raised by these raffles are, in most instances, used for community projects. Many senior organizations donate much time and money in assisting fellow senior citizens who are less fortunate than themselves by purchasing food and supplies at various times of the year.

"I feel that you and your cosponsor are to be commended for your concern for senior citizens and in trying to help them through the bill you have proposed.

"I certainly hope that your efforts to have ACR-55 passed and put on the ballot will succeed.

"Thank you again for your continued support for the senior citizens of your district and the State of New Jersey.

"Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Robert L. Callahan
Executive Director"

If you would like to have a copy of that for your records, I would be glad to give it to you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Thank you. Do any members of the Committee have any comments at this time?

ASSEMBLYMAN SCHUBER: I have no comment, Mr. Chairman. I think when we had this bill before us, we discussed it at that time. I share Assemblyman Littell's feelings with regard to the support of the senior citizen organizations and any method of fair funding for them. I think he has to be commended for that.

ASSEMBLYMAN LITTELL: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Assemblyman LaCorte?

ASSEMBLYMAN La CORTE: I agree with Assemblyman Schuber that it seems that if they can conduct bingos, I think that conducting raffles falls within the same category. I have no problem with moving the bill.

ASSEMBLYMAN FORTUNATO: Does anyone have a comment? I see a lot you out there who are here today to voice an opinion on this bill. I agree with you too.

Thanks for coming here for this special meeting, Bob.

(Hearing concluded)

