



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**TENNESSEE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
RECORDS  
1970-1976**

**RECORD GROUP 71**

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Date Completed: January 4, 1982

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Tennessee Law Revision Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1963 (Chapter 74, Senate Bill 300) as an independent nonpolitical research agency.

The Commission was composed of nine attorneys from throughout the state serving without compensation. The Governor appointed them for staggered six year terms, three of which expired every other year.

The purpose of the Commission was to study Tennessee's legal statutes and recommend changes that it felt necessary to modernize antiquated laws.

Many of the state's laws had been borrowed from English Common Law or from North Carolina and had not been substantively changed since the 1790's. There were therefore, many statutes that were hopelessly out of date. Various state constitutions, local customs and court decisions had all helped add to the confusion.

Therefore the Commission was established "to report, including therein specific proposals for the improvement of the administration of justice."

The Commission issued a number of reports to the General Assembly. Reports on corporation law, administrative law, criminal law, escheat and abandoned property laws, judiciary laws, election laws, family laws and probate laws as well as general reports were issued prior to its disbandment in 1976.

The papers sent to the State Archives are of an administrative nature. They consist mainly of office records, including information on equipment and supplies, office finances, personnel files and two of the Commission's reports.

The majority of the records are dated 1973 though 1976. The records prior to 1970 are at best scanty.

Of special interest are the personnel files which make up the bulk of the record group. Another area of interest is the rather detailed expense accounts and budget requests. Other types of records include leases, equipment brochures, payrolls, time sheets, audit data and statements.

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