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Chapter I - Administration

Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Chapter I - Administration

County Legislative Body

Private Acts of 1951 Chapter 401

SECTION 1. That the County Court of Coffee County, under the provisions of Section 9 of Article II, of the Constitution of Tennessee, is vested with powers to pass ordinances with regard to private and local affairs hereinafter expressly set forth, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members thereof, at any meeting of said County Court; providing notice of intention to present such ordinances or ordinance has been given in the manner hereinafter set forth.

SECTION 2. That an ordinance under the powers which it is deemed expedient to vest in said County Court shall only be considered by the County Court of Coffee County after notice of intention to propose an ordinance, together with a copy of the proposed ordinance under the authority of this Act, shall have been filed in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Coffee County, at least two weeks prior to the session of the County Court at which such ordinance shall be considered.

SECTION 3. That it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the County Court of Coffee County, upon the filing of intention to propose an ordinance, together with a copy of said proposed ordinance, to cause to be published in at least two newspapers of general circulation in Coffee County, a copy of said proposed ordinance, together with a copy of the notice of intention to propose said ordinance. Said newspaper publication shall carry the following statement, over the name of the County Court Clerk, "The above is a copy of an ordinance filed in my office on the ____ day of _____, 19____, by Esquire _____." Said ordinance may be considered at any meeting of the County Court of Coffee County at any time within two weeks after the date said ordinance was filed."

SECTION 4. That acting as herein set forth said County Court of Coffee County may by ordinance: (1) Establish speed and/or load limits upon any county secondary roads, outside of incorporated towns, in said County; (2) Establish the hours and days of opening and closing of all county public offices in said County; (3) Enact Zoning and Health ordinances, applying to sections outside incorporated towns, in said County; (4) Establish a Coffee County Industrial Commission composed of not more than nine (9) members, for the purpose of encouraging industrial development in Coffee County, and appropriate not more than Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars annually for the use of such Commission in employing a full time executive director and other necessary personnel and carrying out the purposes of any ordinance enacted pursuant to this section.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 267

SECTION 5. That acting under the provisions of this Act, the County Court of Coffee County may provide that any violation of any ordinance, passed under the provisions of this Act, is a misdemeanor.

SECTION 6. That the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and that if any section, provision, exception, sentence, clause, phrase, or part of this Act, be held unconstitutional or void, the remainder of this Act shall continue in full force and effect, it being the Legislative intent now hereby declared that this Act would have been adopted even if such unconstitutional or void matter had not been included in same.

SECTION 7. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 5, 1951.

County Register

Private Acts of 1947 Chapter 820

SECTION 1. That before any deed or other instrument which conveys or purports to convey the title in fee simple to any real estate shall be recorded it shall be the duty of the County Tax Assessor to examine the same and ascertain if the property described in said deed or instrument has been and is correctly assessed.

SECTION 2. That it shall be the duty of the County Tax Assessor to countersign every such deed or instrument after having recorded the transfer upon the assessment books of the property conveyed by said deed or instrument to be vested by such deed or instrument.

SECTION 3. That it shall be unlawful for any County Register or Deputy County Register to record or enter any deed or instrument coming within the provisions of Section 1 of this Act upon the records of the Register's Office or to receive such deed or instrument for the purpose of recording or entering the same upon the records, unless such deed or instrument shall have first been countersigned by the County Tax Assessor or his duly appointed deputy.

SECTION 4. That any County Register or Deputy Register who shall be convicted of violating the provisions of Section 3 of this Act shall be fined not less than Twenty-five nor more than Fifty Dollars.

SECTION 5. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SECTION 6. That this Act shall only apply to Counties having a population of not more than 18,970, and not less than 18,950, according to the Federal Census of 1940, or any subsequent Federal Census.

SECTION 7. That this Act shall take effect September 1, 1948.

Passed: March 13, 1947.

Entertainment Event Fee

Private Acts of 2022 Chapter 53

SECTION 1. The legislative body of Coffee County may impose an entertainment event fee upon the sale, resale, and issuance of tickets, passes, admission cards, tokens, access bracelets, and other evidence of entitlement to admission to entertainment events that have an expected attendance of more than five hundred (500) persons.

SECTION 2. As used in this act, "entertainment event" means a gathering for entertainment purposes to participate in, watch, listen to, or otherwise experience athletic events, concerts, a series or collection of concerts, festivals, or other events. An "entertainment event" does not include an officially sanctioned event directly sponsored in full by a governmental entity, a public local education agency, a charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under § 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, as an organization described in § 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, codified in 26 U.S.C. § 501 (c)(3), or combination thereof.

SECTION 3. The amount of the entertainment event fee for each ticket sold or distributed is:

(1) One dollar (\$1.00), if the admission cost or value of the ticket is equal to or less than one hundred dollars (\$100);

(2) Two dollars (\$2.00), if the admission cost or value of the ticket is greater than one hundred dollars (\$100) but less than three hundred dollars (\$300);

(3) Three Dollars (\$3.00), if the admission cost or value of the ticket is equal to or greater than three hundred dollars (\$300) but less than four hundred dollars (\$400); and

(4) Five Dollars (\$5.00), if the admission cost or value of the ticket is equal to or greater than four hundred dollars (\$400).

SECTION 4. Sellers of entertainment event tickets and distributors of complimentary tickets for entertainment events shall remit the fee due under Section 3, in full, to the Coffee County Accounts and Budget Director by the fifteenth day of the calendar month following the event. The Accounts and Budget Director shall create a form to be completed by sellers and distributors, or their representative, necessary or convenient to facilitate collection of the entertainment event fee. An amount not paid shall incur interest at one percent (1 %) of the amount due for each month or part of a month the fee is not timely paid. Collection costs for a delinquent fee will be paid by the seller or distributor or its representative.

SECTION 5. The funds collected by the Accounts and Budget Director shall be deposited in the county general fund and be used for purposes related to the entertainment event.

SECTION 6. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of Coffee County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the legislative body of Coffee County and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 7. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective as provided in Section 6.

Passed: April 14, 2022.

Evidence of Indebtedness

Private Acts of 1925 Chapter 525

COMPILER'S NOTE: The census figures given in the act seem to apply to Dickson County, however, the index of Private Acts of 1925 attributes the Act to Coffee County.

SECTION 1. That it shall be unlawful and is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, for County Officials in all counties of the State, having a population of not more than 19,360 and not less than 19,342 by the Federal Census of 1920 or any subsequent Federal Census, to sign notes or any evidence of indebtedness as security except bonds. Provided, that it shall not be unlawful for any county official in said county or counties, to sign notes or renewals previously signed by them as security.

SECTION 2. That an official of said county or counties, violating Section 1, of this Act, is declared to be, and shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars, nor more than Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 3. That this Act take effect from and after its passage; the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 6, 1925.

Private Acts of 1943 Chapter 360

SECTION 1. That in all Counties of Tennessee having a population of not less than 18,950, nor more than 18,965 by the Federal Census of 1940, or any subsequent Federal Census, all warrants which are evidences of indebtedness against the County shall bear interest at the rate of six (6%) per centum per annum from the date of their registration or from date on which this Act becomes effective, whichever is the latter date, and shall continue to bear interest until the date on which there is a sufficient amount of money or funds in the Treasury of the County to meet payment of same.

SECTION 2. That the provisions of this Act with respect to interest on said warrants shall apply to any and all warrants heretofore issued and which remain unpaid, and to any and all such warrants hereafter to be issued.

SECTION 3. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: January 20, 1943.

Private Acts of 1953 Chapter 191

SECTION 1. That in counties of this State with a population of not less than 23,000, nor more than 23,100, by the Federal Census of 1950, or any subsequent Federal Census, the Quarterly County Court is authorized and empowered to require any or all boards, commissions, and organizations of the County Government to publish quarterly, or at such periods as the Quarterly County Court deems proper, a listing of all warrants, checks or other evidence of indebtedness or payments of indebtedness. Such publication shall be made in one or more newspapers of said county, and the cost of such publication shall be paid from the funds of the board, commission, or organization.

SECTION 2. That this Act is to take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 18, 1953.

Land

Public Acts of 1957 Chapter 366

COMPILER'S NOTE: The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated.

WHEREAS, There exists in Coffee County an ancient construction known and referred to as "Old Stone Fort"; and

WHEREAS, Historical evidence conclusively proves that this structure antedates the discovery of America

by at least thirty years; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of the citizens of our State and Nation, this ancient and historic landmark should be preserved for further explorations, study and enlightenment and should be maintained for public visitation; and

WHEREAS, The "Old Stone Fort" is located on the lands of John A. Chumbley of Manchester who is desirous that the Tennessee Historical Commission and/or the Department of Conservation acquire the Fort for the purposes above stated,

SECTION 1. That the Tennessee Historical Commission and/or the State of Tennessee, Department of Conservation be, and the same are, hereby authorized and empowered to use any funds appropriated or available to either or both of them for the acquisition of the "Old Stone Fort" property in Manchester, Tennessee, together with necessary easements for ingress and egress.

SECTION 2. That the Tennessee Historical Commission and/or the State of Tennessee, Department of Conservation be and they are hereby authorized to expend any funds appropriated or available to either or both of them for the exploration, development, preservation and maintenance of the "Old Stone Fort" after acquisition.

SECTION 3. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 20, 1957.

Administration - Historical Notes

County Legislative Body

The following acts once applied to the quarterly court or the county legislative body of Coffee County and are included herein for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 68, authorized the qualified voters residing in any incorporated town which was also the county seat, to elect an additional Justice of the Peace.
2. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 65, established a three member Board of Commissioners for Coffee County who would assume all the powers and duties formerly vested in the Quarterly Court. The initial members would be appointed by the Governor to staggered terms with their successors popularly elected to three year terms. The senior member of the Board would serve as President. The Board would meet quarterly with the Clerk of the County Court serving as Recorder. The President would receive \$300 per annum and the other members \$200 as compensation. The Quorum Courts were abolished. This Act was repealed by Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 15, and by Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 49.
3. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 61, authorized the 13th Civil District of Coffee County to elect an additional Justice of the Peace. The Justice was required to reside and keep his office in the town of Tullahoma.
4. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 487, amended the general law (Public Acts of 1875, Chapter 42, and Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 246) for Coffee County to raise the fees of the Justices of the Peace for attending Quarterly Court from \$1.50 to \$2.50.
5. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 602, amended Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 68, so as to delete Coffee County from its provision authorizing an additional Justice of the Peace for the county seat. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 181.
6. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 50, directed the Quarterly County Court of Coffee County to meet on the second Monday in January, April, July and October, instead of on the first Mondays as fixed by statute. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 911.
7. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 108, provided that Justices of the Peace in Coffee County would receive \$7.50 per day and such mileage as is provided by law, for their attendance at the quarterly sessions of the County Court.
8. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 152, amended Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 108, to provide that Justices of the Peace in Coffee County would receive \$20 per day for attendance at sessions of the Quarterly Court, and \$10 per day for attendance at committee meetings of the Quarterly Court not to exceed five meetings per year. This Act did not receive local approval and therefore did not take effect.

9. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 306, set the compensation for members of the Quarterly Court at \$25 per day for regular meetings and \$10 per day for up to five committee meetings per quarter. Mileage would be as provided by law. This Act was approved locally.

County Mayor

The references below are of acts which once applied to the office of county judge, or county executive in Coffee County. They are included herein for historical purposes only. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 648, created the office of county judge in Coffee County.
2. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 170, amended Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 648, to provide the County Judge with the sum of \$600 per year as an additional compensation for his services as financial agent of the County. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 1.
3. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 216, amended Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 648, to empower the County Judge to grant writs of habeas corpus. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 1.
4. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 131, amended Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 648, to increase the compensation of the County Judge from \$600 to \$1,200 per annum. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 1.
5. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 471, amended Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 648, to provide that the additional compensation provided to the County Judge for his services as financial agent of the County would be \$150 per month until the Quarterly County Court met and appropriated such additional compensation as they saw fit. This provision would be superseded by any uniform general law of the State as to compensation of County Judges for services as financial agent. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 1.
6. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 299, transferred all the existing authority and jurisdiction relative to juveniles and juvenile courts from the County Judge to the Judge of the Court of General Sessions for Coffee County. This Act did not receive local approval and therefore never took effect.
7. Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 15, transferred all the judicial jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge to the Juvenile and Probate Court. This Act did not receive local approval and therefore never took effect.

General Reference

The following private or local acts constitute part of the administrative and political history of Coffee County but are today no longer operative because they have either been superseded, repealed, or failed to receive local approval.

1. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 157, provided for a county drill of the militia in every county in the month of September. Coffee County was part of the 10th Brigade and would muster on the Wednesday and Thursday following the first Friday and Saturday in September.
2. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 34, incorporated the Coffee County Medicinal Springs, naming John Hereford, John Charles, Benjamin F. Hollins, Issac H. Roberts and Jonathan Webster as the owners.
3. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 251, empowered the Quarterly Court of Coffee County to permit the various departments, boards and agencies of the County to establish a group life, accident and health insurance plan for all officials and employees of the department, board or agency. This Act was not approved locally and never became effective.

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