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# Chapter V - Court System

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

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# Chaper V - Court System

## General Sessions Court

### Public Acts of 1972 Chapter 664

**SECTION 1.** Title 16, Chapter 11, Tennessee Code Annotated is amended by adding to the chapter, the following section:

The Judges of the General Sessions Courts in counties having populations of not less than 47,750 according to the federal Census of 1970, or any subsequent federal census, shall be authorized, upon request, to sit by interchange with any other circuit, criminal or any other court of general jurisdiction in law and equity, provided such General Sessions judges have the qualifications required of the judges for whom they shall sit by interchange.

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 30, 1972.

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** Since this public act applies only to Gibson County, it is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated and therefore is reprinted in this compilation.

### Private Acts of 1989 Chapter 28

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby created in Gibson County a general sessions court, court administered safety program. The court administered safety program shall include but not be limited to a traffic school.

**SECTION 2.** The judge of the general sessions court is authorized and empowered to oversee the administration of the court administered safety program. There shall be established such financial accounts as are necessary to administer this program. Complete books and records of all fees received and all expenditures made shall be kept monthly.

**SECTION 3.** There is established a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for persons to enroll in the traffic school. Fees shall be collected by the Gibson County general sessions court administrator and paid directly to the county general fund within the time provided by statute. Such fees may be increased by resolution of the county commission.

**SECTION 4.** A budget for the court administered safety program shall be compiled annually and submitted to the budget and finance committee and the county commission for approval at the appropriate time.

**SECTION 5.** All funds collected pursuant to this act shall be allocated to the court administered safety program and may not be expended for purposes reasonably related to the effectuation of this act.

**SECTION 6.** If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 7.** This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body of Gibson County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the legislative body and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 8.** For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective and retroactive to January 1, 1989.

Passed: March 22, 1989.

### Private Acts of 1996 Chapter 198

**SECTION 1.** Effective September 1, 1998, the annual base salary and annual adjustments for the general sessions judge of Gibson County shall be that of a judge of a county of the first class as provided by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-5003, notwithstanding the population classifications established in Section 16-15-5001.

**SECTION 2.** Effective immediately, the General Sessions Court Judge of Gibson County may interchange with the judge of the juvenile, circuit, chancery, or criminal court in such county if the General Sessions

Court Judge possesses the same qualifications as such juvenile, circuit, chancery, or criminal court judge. This section shall only apply if the judge of the juvenile, circuit, chancery, or criminal court is unavailable to serve or upon request of the juvenile, circuit or criminal judge or chancellor.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1997, Chapter 9

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

**SECTION 4.** 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 upon being approved as provided in Section 3.

Passed: April 24, 1996.

## Juvenile Court

### Private Acts of 1982 Chapter 307

**SECTION 1.** As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Court" means the Juvenile Court of Gibson County.
- (b) "Judge" means the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Gibson County.
- (c) "Clerk" means an elected juvenile court clerk or deputy clerks of the juvenile court of Gibson County.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2000, Chapter 142

**SECTION 2.** Effective September 1, 1982, there is created in Gibson County a Juvenile Court to be known and styled as the Juvenile Court of Gibson County. Such court shall be a court of record and shall be presided over by a judge who shall have the qualifications and salary provided by this act.

**SECTION 3.** At the next Regular Election for county officials to be held in August, 1982, and every eight (8) years thereafter, a person licensed to practice law in this state and possessing all of the other qualifications required by law, shall be elected Judge of the Juvenile Court of Gibson County for a term of eight (8) years. The judge shall take and subscribe to the same oath of office as that prescribed by judge of circuit courts. In the event the office of judge shall become vacant by reason of death, resignation, retirement or other reason before the expiration of the term of office or before a successor is elected and qualified, such vacancy shall be filled as provided by law.

**SECTION 4.** (a) The juvenile court clerk of Gibson County shall be elected by the qualified voters of Gibson County as provided in this section.

(b) The juvenile court clerk elected pursuant to this section shall serve as the clerk of the Gibson County juvenile court and any of such clerk's deputies shall also be deputies for the juvenile court created by this act.

(c) The person elected to the office of juvenile court clerk of Gibson County shall be a citizen of Gibson County and shall continuously reside within such county.

(d) At the August 2002 general election, and every four (4) years thereafter, the qualified voters of Gibson County shall elect a person to serve as the Gibson County juvenile court clerk for a term of four (4) years.

(e) The person elected to the office of juvenile court clerk of Gibson County shall take office on September 1, next following such person's election and shall hold office until such person's successor is elected and qualified. Any vacancy in the office of juvenile court clerk shall be filled by appointment of the Gibson County Commission as provided by law. The Gibson County Commission shall appoint a person to serve as juvenile court clerk from July 1, 2000 until the elected juvenile court clerk takes office on September 1, 2002. Such appointed clerk shall be required to have the same qualifications as are provided by this section for the elected clerk.

(f) The juvenile court clerk appointed and elected pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section shall receive compensation of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000) each fiscal year. The juvenile court clerk shall also receive any annual raises given to county employees by the Gibson County Commission.

(g) All records of the juvenile court of Gibson County shall be transferred from the office and jurisdiction of the county clerk of Gibson County to that of the juvenile court clerk of Gibson County as soon as practicable following appointment of the juvenile court clerk as provided in subsection (e) of this section, but in no event later than thirty (30) days following such appointment.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2000, Chapter 142

**SECTION 5.** The Judge and Clerk of such Juvenile Court shall have all of the jurisdiction, powers, duties, and authority of other Juvenile Court Judges and Clerks as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37 or any other general law.

**SECTION 6.** The Judge of the Gibson County Juvenile Court shall receive the same compensation as the most highly compensated general sessions court judge in the county.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2022, Chapter 38

**SECTION 7.** The position of Juvenile Judge shall be a full-time position, and such judge shall not be allowed to participate in the practice of law.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2022, Chapter 38

**SECTION 8.** The judge is authorized to make and promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and efficient operation of the court and to fix the times and places at which all persons within the jurisdiction of the court shall have their causes set for disposition.

**SECTION 9.** The judge shall, pursuant to the law and regulations of Gibson County, appoint such personnel as may be necessary to efficiently carry on the business of the court. All such appointments shall be limited by the total appropriations made for such personnel during each fiscal year.

**SECTION 10.** The Sheriff of Gibson County shall furnish the necessary deputies and special deputies to attend and dispense with the business of the court.

**SECTION 11.** The county legislative body shall provide the court with facilities adequate and sufficient to allow the court to perform its various duties as a Juvenile Court.

**SECTION 12.** All unfinished and pending matters in the court or courts exercising Juvenile Court jurisdiction prior to the date this act takes effect shall be transferred to the court created by this act at the close of business on the day preceding the day this act becomes effective. On such date, all official books, records and other documents pertaining to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court shall be delivered to such court.

**SECTION 13.** If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 14.** This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body of Gibson County. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Gibson County legislative body and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 15.** 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, Section 3 of this act shall be effective upon being approved as provided in Section 14, the public welfare requiring it. The remaining sections shall become effective on September 1, 1982, if properly approved by the county legislative body of Gibson County.

Passed: April 6, 1982.

## Humboldt Law Library

### Private Acts of 1998 Chapter 175

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 211, of the Private Acts of 1965, as amended by Chapter 212 of the Private Acts of 1972, and any other acts amendatory thereto, is repealed.

**SECTION 2.** Any and all funds remaining in the Humboldt Law Library Fund shall become the property of Gibson County for the use and benefit of the residents of the districts of Gibson County composing the territorial jurisdiction of the Humboldt Law Court. The funds shall remain with the Humboldt Clerk and Master for expenses involved with moving the books of the library and for their repair and maintenance.

**SECTION 3.** Upon the termination of the Humboldt Law Library Commission, the Law Library, its contents, equipment and supplies, and all other property obtained by act of the commission, shall become the property of Gibson County for the use and benefit of the residents of districts of Gibson County composing the territorial jurisdiction of the Humboldt Law Court. The Humboldt Clerk and Master is authorized to find a suitable home for the volumes and the funds shall be placed in the repair and

maintenance account for the Humboldt Law Court.

**SECTION 4.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed as having the effect of removing any incumbent from office or abridging the term of any official prior to the end of the term for which such official was elected.

**SECTION 5.** If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 6.** This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Body of Gibson County. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the Presiding Officer of the Legislative Body of Gibson 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: May 1, 1998.

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The Private Acts of 1998, Chapter 175, repealed the Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 211, as amended by Private Acts of 1972, Chapter 212, which created the Law Library Commission of Humboldt, Gibson County Tennessee.

## Court System - Historical Notes

### Board of Jury Commissioners - Jurors

The following acts once affected jurors or boards of jury commissioners in Gibson County, but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 63, created a Board of Jury Commissioners for Henry County. This Act was amended by Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 254, to make the act applicable to Gibson and Haywood Counties. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 541, repealed the 1923 act as to Gibson County.
2. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 136, created a Board of Jury Commissioners in Gibson County, but the act failed to gain the required local approval. The act was repealed by Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 160.
3. Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 160, created a jury commission for the circuit court of Gibson County and a jury commission for the law and equity court of Gibson County.

### Chancery Court

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Gibson County, although they no longer have the force of law since they have either been superseded by general law, repealed, or failed to receive local ratification. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 32, directed the judges of the Supreme Court to hold a Court of Chancery at Paris twice a year, on the third Monday in April and October, for the counties of Perry, Henderson, Carroll, Henry, Weakley, Obion, Gibson and Dyer, and to appoint a clerk and master for said court.
2. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, created two chancery divisions in Tennessee to be known as the Eastern and Western Divisions, and placed the chancery court for Gibson County, held at Paris, in the Western Division.
3. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 4, created three chancery divisions in Tennessee to be known as the Eastern, Middle and Western Divisions. The Western Division was composed of Weakley, Obion, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Perry, Henderson, Madison, Haywood, Tipton, Lauderdale, Fayette, Shelby, Henry, Hardeman and McNairy Counties. The Chancery Court for Gibson and Dyer Counties was designated the Second District of the Western Division. Court was to be held at Trenton on the second Mondays in May and November. This act was amended by Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 20, to set the dates for holding court at Trenton on the first Mondays in January and July. The act was further amended by Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 14, to abolish the court at Trenton and to provide that Henry, Weakley, Obion, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Perry and Madison Counties would compose one chancery division for which court would be held at Huntington on the first Mondays in February and August.

4. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 14, formed one chancery district of the counties of Henry, Weakley, Obion, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Perry, Henderson and Madison in the Western Division. Court was to be held at Huntington in Carroll County on the first Mondays in February and August. The chancery courts at Lexington, Paris, Jackson, Dresden, Trenton, Bolivar and Clarksville were abolished. 5.
5. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 21, created a separate chancery division for Gibson and Dyer Counties to be held at Trenton on the second Mondays in March and September.
6. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 40, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the fourth Mondays in January and July.
7. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 158, changed the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton to the third Mondays in June and December.
8. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 88, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the third Mondays in June and December.
9. Public Acts of 1865-66, Chapter 20, established the 9th Chancery District comprised of Henry, Weakley, Obion, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll and Benton Counties, with court in Gibson County to be held on the third Mondays in January and July.
10. Public Acts of 1866-67, Chapter 25, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the first Mondays in April and November.
11. Public Acts of 1866-67, Chapter 33, established the counties of Haywood, Madison, Dyer and Gibson as a separate chancery district.
12. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 22, established the new Chancery Court of Humboldt, to be held on the first Mondays in June and December.
13. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 70, transferred jurisdiction over the 13th and 18th Civil Districts of Gibson County to the special courts at Humboldt, and provided for the transfer of pending cases in the 13th Civil District from chancery court at Trenton to chancery court at Humboldt.
14. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 32, divided Tennessee into twelve chancery districts. The 11th District comprised Dyer, Obion, Lake, Weakley, Gibson, Etheridge, Carroll and Henry Counties.
15. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 47, set the dates for holding chancery court in Gibson County on the first Mondays in July and January.
16. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 24, extended the jurisdiction of the chancery and circuit courts in Trenton to include the 13th and 20th civil districts of Gibson County, which had previously been subject to the special court at Humboldt.
17. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 88, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the third Monday of May and the second Monday in December, and at Humboldt on the first Mondays in June and December.
18. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 149, extended the jurisdiction of the Law Court and Chancery Court at Humboldt to include the 13th Civil District, repealing the conflicting portions of Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 24.
19. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 28, changed the dates for holding chancery court in Trenton from the third Monday in May and the second Monday in December to the second Mondays in May and November.
20. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 73, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the first Mondays of May and November, and at Humboldt on the first Mondays of January and July.
21. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, provided for eleven chancery divisions. The 10th Chancery Division included Fayette, Tipton, Haywood, Lauderdale, Dyer, Obion, Weakley and Gibson Counties. The dates for holding court at Trenton were set on the first Mondays in May and November, and at Humboldt on the second Mondays in February and August.
22. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 23, set the dates for holding chancery court in Humboldt on the third Mondays in February and August, and in Trenton on the first Mondays in May and November.
23. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 90, transferred jurisdiction over the 13th Civil District of Gibson County from the chancery court in Humboldt to the chancery court in Trenton.
24. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 99, placed Gibson County in the 10th Chancery Division and set the dates for holding court in Trenton on the first Mondays in May and November, and in Humboldt on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January and the fourth Monday in June.

25. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, created ten chancery divisions in Tennessee. The 9th Chancery Division was comprised of Dyer, Obion, Lake, Weakley, Gibson, Lauderdale, Fayette, Haywood, Tipton and Hardeman Counties. In Gibson County, chancery court was to meet in Trenton on the fourth Mondays in February and August, and in Humboldt on the third Mondays in March and September.
26. Acts of 1903, Chapter 591, changed the time for holding chancery court in Trenton to the second Monday in February and the first Monday in September, and in Humboldt to the second Monday in March and the fourth Monday in September.
27. Public Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the second Monday in February and the first Monday in September, and at Humboldt on the second Monday in March and fourth Monday in September.
28. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 203, gave the County Court Judge concurrent jurisdiction with the chancery court with regard to divorce cases and certain guardianship matters. The legislature attempted to repeal the 1941 act in Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 231, but the 1965 act failed to gain local approval. The 1941 act was finally repealed by Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 374.
29. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, created a Law and Equity Court in Gibson County, which had concurrent jurisdiction with the Chancery Court of Gibson County and the Humboldt Chancery Court, and the Circuit Court and Law Court of Gibson County. The first term of the Law and Equity Court at Trenton was set to begin on the first Monday in August, 1967, and thereafter on the first Mondays in October, December, February, April, June and August. The first term of the Law and Equity Court at Humboldt was set to begin on the first Monday in July, 1967, and thereafter on the first Mondays in November, March and July.
30. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 320, set the dates for holding chancery court at Trenton on the second Monday in February and the first Monday in September, and at Humboldt on the second Monday in March and the fourth Monday in September.
31. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 374, transferred divorce jurisdiction from the County Court to the Law and Equity Court, and transferred all pending divorce cases before the County Courts at Trenton and Humboldt to the Law and Equity Court.
32. Public Acts of 1968, Chapter 457, amended Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, to transfer jurisdiction over workers' compensation and divorce actions from General Sessions Court to the Law and Equity Court for Gibson County, and to provide that the court would be in session continuously at Trenton and Humboldt with terms to begin on the first Monday of each month at Trenton and on the third Monday of each month at Humboldt. The judge was authorized to hold chambers court for juvenile, probate and chancery matters, to hold special terms for law matters, to establish rule days and to promulgate rules of court.
33. Public Acts of 1970, Chapter 492, amended Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, to grant the judge of the Law and Equity Court equal and coextensive power, along with the circuit court judge, to appoint the Jury Commission for Gibson County. Gibson County was instructed to give the Law and Equity Court Judge suitable office space and supplies, and if it did not, the judge was authorized to purchase the same out of the fees of the court.
34. Public Acts of 1973, Chapter 356, amending T.C.A. § 16-2-309, removed Gibson and Dyer Counties from the 9th Chancery Division, and conferred chancery jurisdiction upon the Law and Equity Court for each such county.
35. Public Acts of 1984, Chapter 931, T.C.A. § 16-2-506(28)(A) provided that effective September 1, 1984, the Law and Equity Court in Gibson County became a chancery court for the 28th Judicial District and the Law and Equity Judge became a Chancellor.

#### **Chancery Court - Clerk and Master**

The reference list below contains acts which once applied to the clerk and master in Gibson County. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1825, Chapter 32, directed the judges of the Supreme Court to appoint a Clerk and Master for the Chancery Court at Paris for the Counties of Perry, Henderson, Carroll, Henry, Weakley, Obion, Gibson and Dyer.
2. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 63, directed the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Trenton to appoint a deputy clerk to reside in Dyersburgh and to keep an office there.
3. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 22, directed the chancellor of the newly-established Chancery Court of Humboldt to appoint a Clerk and Master for said court.



4. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 146, made women over the age of 21 eligible to hold the offices of deputy register, deputy county court clerk, deputy circuit court clerk, and deputy clerk and master in Gibson County.
5. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 319, set the salary of the Clerk and Master at all of the fees collected by the office. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 416.
6. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 139, abolished the office of Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt, and conferred upon the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Humboldt all the powers and duties of the former Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt. The Clerk and Master was to be paid \$600 per year for the performance of those duties.
7. Private Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, provided that the Clerk and Master was to receive 7% of the amount collected by his office in receiving, collecting and paying over delinquent taxes.
8. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 778, set the salary of the Clerk and Master at \$3,000 per year.

### **Circuit Court**

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Gibson County but now have no effect, having been repealed, superseded, or having failed to win local approval. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1823, Chapter 41, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the fourth Mondays in May and November.
2. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 111, provided that circuit court and the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions would be held at the house of Luke Biggs until otherwise provided by law.
3. Private Acts of 1824, Chapter 102, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the first Mondays in May and November.
4. Private Acts of 1825, Chapter 318, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the fourth Mondays in April and October.
5. Public Acts of 1826, Chapter 43, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the fourth Mondays in April and October.
6. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, established 11 judicial circuits in Tennessee, placed Gibson County in the 9th Judicial Circuit along with Henry, Weakley, Obion, Dyer, Carroll and Benton Counties, and provided that circuit court in Gibson County would be held on the first Mondays in March, July, and November.
7. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 177, changed the time for holding circuit court in Gibson County to the third Mondays in March, July, and November.
8. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 13, created the 15th Judicial Circuit comprising the Counties of Gibson, Obion, Dyer and Lauderdale, prescribed the manner of electing the circuit judge, and changed the dates for holding court in Gibson County to the third Mondays in March, July and November.
9. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 21, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the third Monday in March, the fourth Monday in July, and the third Monday in November.
10. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 98, placed Gibson, Obion, Dyer and Lauderdale Counties in the 16th Judicial Circuit, and changed the dates for holding court in Gibson County to the third Monday in March, the fourth Monday in July, and the third Monday in November.
11. Public Acts of 1861-62, Chapter 49, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the first Mondays in May and November.
12. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 38, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County at Trenton on the fourth Mondays in March, July and November.
13. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 22, established a new court at Humboldt with general common law jurisdiction, original and appellate, over all cases arising at law, either civil or criminal, to be called the Law Court at Humboldt. This court was given all the powers conferred upon circuit courts of Tennessee. The dates for holding court were set on the second Mondays in April and August and the first Monday in December. Although the Law Court at Humboldt was not called "circuit court," the legislature often referred to it as the circuit court at Humboldt, and the only practical difference appears to be the name. The circuit court clerk at Trenton also served as the clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt, and the court's expenses were paid out of the same funds as other circuit courts. See Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 22.

14. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 70, placed the Law Court at Humboldt in the 16th Judicial Circuit, set the dates for holding Law Court at Humboldt on the second Mondays in April, August and December, transferred jurisdiction over the 13th and 18th Civil Districts of Gibson County to the special courts at Humboldt, and provided for the transfer of pending cases in the 13th District from Circuit Court at Trenton to Law Court at Humboldt.
15. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 31, divided Tennessee into 15 judicial circuits, and placed the Counties of Gibson, Dyer, Haywood, Madison, and the special Court at Humboldt in the 13th Circuit.
16. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 46, set the dates for holding circuit court in Gibson County on the third Mondays in February, June and October.
17. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 24, extended the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in Trenton to include the 13th and 20th civil districts of Gibson County, which had previously been subject to the special court at Humboldt.
18. Public Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 67, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the third Mondays in April, August, and December, and at Humboldt on the fourth Mondays in February, June and October.
19. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 145, set the dates for holding circuit court at Humboldt on the first Mondays in March, July and November.
20. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 149, returned jurisdiction over the 13th civil district in Gibson County to the Law Court and Chancery Court at Humboldt.
21. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 28, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the second Mondays in April, August and December, and at Humboldt on the third Mondays of February, June and October.
22. Public Acts of 1875, Chapter 137, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Mondays in April, August, and December, and at Humboldt on the third Mondays in March, July and November.
23. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 49, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Tuesdays after the first Mondays in April, August and December.
24. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, divided Tennessee into 14 judicial circuits. The act placed the Counties of Obion, Weakley, Henry, Carroll, Gibson, Crockett, Haywood and Benton in the 12th Judicial Circuit, and set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April, August and December, and at Humboldt on the third Mondays in March, July and November.
25. Public Acts of 1887, Chapter 94, set the dates for holding circuit court at Humboldt on the third Mondays in March, July and November, and at Trenton on the first Tuesdays after the first Mondays in April, August and December.
26. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 15, set the dates for holding circuit court at Humboldt on the second Mondays in March, July and November, and at Trenton on the fourth Mondays in March, July and November.
27. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 90, transferred jurisdiction over the 13th civil district in Gibson County from the Law Court of Humboldt to the Circuit Court at Trenton.
28. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 38, created a new 18th Judicial Circuit, to be composed of the counties of Gibson, Carroll, Crockett and Haywood, and set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the fourth Mondays in January, May and September, and at Humboldt on the first Mondays in March and July and the second Monday in November.
29. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 409, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Mondays in March, July and December, and in Humboldt on the first Mondays in April, August and November.
30. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, divided Tennessee into fourteen judicial circuits, placed Gibson County in the 13th Judicial Circuit, and set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Mondays in April, August and December, and at Humboldt on the fourth Mondays in April, August and December.
31. Public Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Mondays in April, August and December, and at Humboldt on the fourth Mondays in April, August and December.
32. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 203, gave the County Court Judge concurrent jurisdiction with

- Circuit Court for certain criminal matters and divorce cases. The legislature attempted to repeal the 1941 act in Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 231, but the 1965 act failed to gain local approval. The 1941 act was finally repealed by Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 374.
33. Public Acts of 1965, Chapter 204, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Mondays in April, August and December, and at Humboldt on fourth Mondays in April, August and December.
  34. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, created a Law and Equity Court in Gibson County, which had concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court and Law Court of Gibson County, and the Chancery Court of Gibson County and the Humboldt Chancery Court. The first term of the Law and Equity Court at Trenton was to begin on the first Monday in August, 1967, and thereafter on the first Mondays in October, December, February, April, June and August. The first term of the Law and Equity Court at Humboldt was to begin on the first Monday in July, 1967, and thereafter on the first Mondays in November, March and July.
  35. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 374, transferred divorce jurisdiction from the County Court to the Law and Equity Court, and transferred all pending divorce cases before the County Courts at Trenton and Humboldt to the Law and Equity Court.
  36. Public Acts of 1968, Chapter 457, amended Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, to transfer jurisdiction over workers' compensation and divorce actions from General Sessions Court to the Law and Equity Court for Gibson County, and to provide that the court would be in session continuously at Trenton and Humboldt with terms to begin on the first Monday of each month at Trenton and on the third Monday of each month at Humboldt. The judge was authorized to hold chambers court for juvenile, probate and chancery matters, to hold special terms for law matters, to establish rule days and to promulgate rules of court.
  37. Public Acts of 1970, Chapter 492, amended Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 248, to grant the judge of the Law and Equity Court equal and coextensive power with the circuit court judge to appoint the Jury Commission for Gibson County. Gibson County was instructed to give the Law and Equity Court Judge suitable office space and supplies, and if it did not the judge was authorized to purchase the same out of the fees of the court.
  38. Public Acts of 1973, Chapter 356, amending T.C.A. § 16-2-309, removed Gibson and Dyer Counties from the 9th Chancery Division, and conferred chancery jurisdiction upon the Law and Equity Court for each such county.
  39. Public Acts of 1977, Chapter 199, set the dates for holding circuit court at Trenton on the first Monday in January with recessed session beginning first Monday in March, on the first Monday in May with recessed session beginning first Monday in July, and on the first Monday in September with recessed session beginning first Monday in November; and at Humboldt, on the third Mondays in February, June and October.
  40. Public Acts of 1984, Chapter 931, T.C.A. § 16-2-506(28)(A), provided that effective September 1, 1984, the Law and Equity Court in Gibson County became a chancery court for the 28th Judicial District and the Law and Equity Judge became a Chancellor.

### **Circuit Court - Clerk**

The following acts have no current effect, but once applied to the Gibson County Circuit Court Clerk. They were repealed, superseded, or never received local approval. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

41. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 22, provided the Circuit Court Clerk would also serve as the Clerk of the new Law Court at Humboldt.
42. Acts of 1909, Chapter 378, set the compensation of the Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt at the fees collected by the office, with a guarantee of \$600 per annum.
43. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 680, set the salary of the Circuit Court Clerks in Gibson County at \$1,500 per annum, but the act specifically did not apply to the clerks of "any Circuit Court created by special statute" (i.e., the Law Court at Humboldt).
44. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 146, made women eligible to hold the office of Deputy Circuit Court Clerk in Gibson County.
45. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 539, set the salary of the Clerk of the Law Court of Humboldt at the fees of the office, with a guaranteed salary of \$900 per annum.
46. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 139, abolished the office of Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt, and conferred upon the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Humboldt all of the powers and

duties of the former Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt. The Clerk and Master was to be paid \$600 per year for the performance of those duties.

47. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 240, authorized the employment of clerical assistants by the Circuit Court Clerk, at a total maximum annual salary of \$600, to be paid once a year.
48. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 258, amended the 1929 act to provide that clerical assistants would be paid January 1, May 1, and September 1 each year.
49. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 203, provided that in all divorce and criminal actions, the Circuit Court Clerk at Trenton would also act as the County Court Clerk at Trenton, and the Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt would also serve as the County Court Clerk in Humboldt.
50. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 284, amended the 1929 act to increase the total annual salary for clerical assistants to \$1,200.
51. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 38, amended the 1943 act to increase the total annual salary for clerical assistants to \$1,800.
52. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 15, amended the 1929 act to increase the total annual salary for clerical assistants to \$2,400.
53. Private Acts of 1959, Chapter 82, amended the 1929 act to increase the total annual salary for clerical assistants to \$3,000.
54. Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 83, repealed Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 240, and all amendments thereto.
55. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 358, authorized the Clerk of the Law Court at Humboldt to appoint a deputy clerk to be paid \$50 per month.

#### **District Attorney General - Assistants and Criminal Investigators**

The following acts once affecting Gibson County are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes.

1. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 32, prescribed the manner for electing the District Attorney General.
2. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 13, prescribed the manner of electing the District Attorney General for the newly-created 15th Judicial District.
3. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 181, created the office of Criminal Investigator for the District Attorney General for the 13th Judicial Circuit, to be appointed by the District Attorney General. The Criminal Investigator had the same authority and power as deputies of the County Sheriffs.
4. Public Acts of 1969, Chapter 167, created the office of Assistant District Attorney General for the 13th Judicial Circuit, to be appointed by the District Attorney General. The person appointed was required to be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and licensed to practice law in Tennessee.
5. Public Acts of 1972, Chapter 663, created an additional Assistant District Attorney General for the 13th Judicial Circuit, to be appointed by the District Attorney General.
6. Public Acts of 1977, Chapter 371, created a third full-time Assistant District Attorney General for the 13th Judicial Circuit, to be appointed by the District Attorney General.

#### **General Sessions Court**

The following act once affected the general sessions court of Gibson County, but is no longer in effect and is included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1959, Chapter 328, was an attempt to create a Court of General Sessions for Gibson County, to be held at Trenton and such other towns as the Quarterly County Court authorized, but the act failed to win local approval.

#### **Secretarial Assistance**

The following acts are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes.

1. Public Acts of 1943, Chapter 125, provided for a stenographer for the Chancellor of the 9th Chancery Division and set compensation at \$720 per year. Public Acts of 1953, Chapter 264, amended the 1943 act to raise the compensation to \$1,500 per year.
2. Public Acts of 1951, Chapter 36, created the office of stenographer to the judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit and set compensation at \$900 per year. Public Acts of 1963, Chapter 308, amended the 1951 act to raise the compensation to \$1,800 per year.
3. Public Acts of 1957, Chapter 150, set the compensation of the stenographer to the Chancellor of the 9th Chancery Division at \$2,400 per year. Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 309, amended the

1957 act to raise the compensation to \$3,600.

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