



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

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## Chapter X - Law Enforcement

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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 X - Law Enforcement

## Department of Law Enforcement

### Private Acts of 1969 Chapter 84

**SECTION 1.** That there is hereby created for Putnam County, Tennessee, a Department of Law Enforcement, which shall exist for the purpose of assisting the Sheriff of Putnam County in carrying out his constitutional and statutory duties of maintaining law and order within Putnam County, Tennessee, in serving civil and criminal processes, in operating the Putnam County Jail, and in accounting for the statutory fees of the office of Sheriff, and other duties incidental thereto.

**SECTION 2.** That such Department of Law Enforcement for Putnam County, Tennessee, shall be under the direct supervision of the Sheriff of Putnam County, who shall be paid the maximum salary as provided by the general law of the State of Tennessee for Sheriffs, and the same shall be staffed with duly appointed and bonded Deputy Sheriffs who shall be selected by the Sheriff of Putnam County, and he shall be responsible for their conduct and their actions as under the general law of this State. Putnam County shall have a minimum of four full-time Deputy Sheriffs, a Jailer, and such other personnel, either full-time or part-time, as the needs of the office may require and as the Putnam County Quarterly Court may authorize from time to time. Salaries of deputies, jailers, and other employees of said department shall be fixed by the Putnam County Quarterly Court and included in the budget hereafter provided for.

**SECTION 3.** That the Putnam County Quarterly Court shall establish a budget for the operation of said Department, providing therein for the payment of salaries for the Sheriff and all employees, and the purchase, maintenance, and operation of all automobiles which the Court may see fit to furnish the office of the Sheriff, but in no event, less than three.

**SECTION 4.** That all fees accruing to the office of Sheriff or any of his agents or employees, and the board bill for the operation of the Putnam County Jail, shall be paid into the General Fund of the County. The Sheriff of Putnam County shall be responsible for keeping full, complete and accurate records of all fees and board bills accruing to him or any employee or Deputy appointed by him, and shall likewise account for all funds expended by him for salaries, equipment, maintenance, food for the jail, and all other lawful and proper expenses of said office.

**SECTION 5.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same be approved by a twothirds (2/3) vote of the Quarterly County Court on or before October 1, 1969. The presiding officer of such body shall proclaim its approval or non-approval and shall certify the same to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect from and after July 1, 1969, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 17, 1969.

## Law Enforcement - Historical Notes

The following acts have no current effect but are included here for reference purposes since they once applied to the Putnam County sheriff's office.

1. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 805, relieved E. M. Pippin, of Putnam County, of all personal liability as security for the fine and cost payable to the State of Tennessee for Robert McBroom in the Criminal Court of Putnam County on a charge of possessing intoxicating liquors.
2. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 808, released E. M. DuBois from any and all liability incurred by him in signing as the security for the fine and cost of A. A. Hill, in Putnam County, on a charge of public drunkenness, the said Hill having died shortly thereafter.
3. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 809, released Mrs. Callie Cole, widow of R. W. (Bob) Cole, as surety for the payment of a fine for a violation of the liquor laws, plus costs and taxes.
4. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 721, released and discharged J. V. McDowell, as Principal, and H. W. Shanks, as Surety, of any and all personal liability they may have incurred in the signing of a note and bond for \$100, assessed by the Criminal Court in Putnam County against McDowell on a charge of unlawfully possessing and transporting intoxicating liquors. McDowell had a half pint of liquor in his possession when he was arrested. McDowell paid the court costs but he is now destitute and a sufferer of the Depression.
5. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 881, relieved Bob Mathews, of Putnam County, of the payment of the balance of a fine heretofore imposed upon him by the Criminal Court of Putnam County at the

January term of Court in 1930. He was convicted of possessing intoxicating liquors.

6. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 890, released Albert Wade, and his sureties, C. H. Dowell and G. C. Peak, from any further payment on the fine and cost assessed against him in the criminal court of Putnam County, Wade having been convicted of possessing intoxicating liquors and fined \$100 plus court costs. The balance due on the fine and costs were hereby cancelled and rendered null and void.
7. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 320, set the salary of the Sheriff at \$8,200 per annum, payable from the fees of his office. In the event the fees do not match the salary, then he would be entitled to the greater of the fees or the minimum salary fixed by T.C.A. 8-2405.

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