



March 31, 2025

General Sessions Court

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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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.

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