



March 31, 2025

Administration - Historical Notes

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

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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Budget System

The following acts once created a budgeting system for Meigs County, but they have been specifically repealed or superseded by current law. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1970, Chapter 218, amended Chapter 403, Private Acts of 1949 by increasing the members of the Purchasing Commission from three to five and adding a paragraph that the two added members would be elected by the Quarterly County Court and serve until September, 1970. In August, 1970, during the general election, their successors would be elected, the one getting the highest number of votes serving for four years, the second highest for two years. No more than one member could come from the same civil districts of the county.
2. Private Acts of 1970, Chapter 240, also amended Chapter 403, Private Acts of 1949, in Section 3 by removing the Board of Education and school system from its provisions. Neither of the above acts ever became a law.

County Clerk

The following acts once affected the office of County Clerk in Meigs County. They are included herein for historical purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 153, fixed the salary of the County Court Clerk of Meigs County at \$900 annually, payable quarterly. The Clerk would file an itemized statement, sworn to, with the County Judge, or Chairman, showing the amount of fees collected by his office. If the fees collected were less than the salary, the County would make up the difference out of the regular County funds; if more, then the excess would be paid into the treasury. This salary would be in lieu of all other fees and compensations.
2. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 329, amended Chapter 153, Private Acts of 1921, above, by raising the salary of the County Court Clerk to \$1,000 annually from \$900.
3. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 592, set the annual salary of the County Court Clerk in Meigs County at \$1,400 payable monthly out of the regular County funds. All fees accruing in the Clerk's Office would be paid into the county treasury. All conflicting laws were repealed.

County Legislative Body

The following acts once applied to the Quarterly Court or the county legislative body of Meigs 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 1837-38, Chapter 68, stated that the Sheriff of Meigs County would hold an election at Decatur for the purpose of electing an additional Justice of the Peace for that city, who shall be commissioned and exercise all like powers as other Justices. The Constable for Decatur would be elected at the same time.
2. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 114, established the per diem pay of the Justices of the Quarterly County Court of Meigs County at \$4.00 per day and the mileage rate for travel between their homes and court at five cents per mile for each meetings.
3. Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 138, amended Chapter 114, Private Acts of 1945, above, by increasing the pay of the Justices to \$100 per year and apparently eliminated the mileage but this act was disapproved by the Quarterly County Court and never became a law under the Home Rule Amendment to the Tennessee Constitution.

County Register

The following acts once affected the office of County Register in Meigs County, but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1905, Chapter 219, amended the State Code to provide that the Register of Meigs County shall be ex-officio Clerk of the Circuit and Criminal Courts of that County and will perform their duties in their absence and, while doing so, receive their salaries and the fees of their office, but, these fees would also be shown by him in his report to the County Court on the operations of

his office. The Act would take effect on September 1, 1906, unless a vacancy occurred prior to that date.

2. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 89, established the salary of the Register and ex-officio Circuit Court Clerk at \$750 per year payable monthly out of the regular county funds for which the County Judge, or Chairman, would issue warrants.
3. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 584, also concerned the salary of the Register and ex-officio Circuit Court Clerk in Meigs County raising the same to \$1,200 per year from \$750 payable monthly out of the County Treasury. All fees collected by the Register's office and while he was discharging the duties of the Circuit Court Clerk would be the property of the county.

Port Authority

This Act is not published herein because it never became effective but a synopsis of its contents is written below for those to whom the program might have some interest.

1. Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 247, created a Port Authority for Meigs and Rhea Counties in order to facilitate transportation in those counties and to promote navigation on the Hiwassee River together with some other stated purposes. The Authority would consist of six Commissioners and such other employees as were necessary to exercise and discharge the powers granted and to accomplish the purposes and objectives prescribed in the Act. The Act granted authority for the construction, acquisition, ownership, maintenance, and operation of publicly owned ports, boat docks, airports, storage, transfer, transportation, water, sports, and recreation facilities by Rhea and Meigs counties; and for the promotion of and facilitating of commercial and industrial development programs in the area by the said counties and by other parties. Provisions for the management, regulation, and government of the Port Authority were written into the Act and, also for the issuance and sale of bonds by the two governments. The conditions under which money could be borrowed for the purpose of carrying out the powers granted herein were enumerated. The Commissioners would not be compensated except as the County Courts might allow them a per diem, but their necessary and incidental expenses incurred while on the business of the Authority would be paid. In most instances Rhea and Meigs would have shared the expenses and costs for which each was granted the power to levy taxes or borrow money for those purposes.

Purchasing

The following acts once affected the purchasing procedures of Meigs County, but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1970, Chapter 218, provided for 2 additional members to serve on the Purchasing and Finance Commission. This act was not ratified by the county legislative body and is therefore not operative.
2. Private Acts of 1976, Chapter 219, attempted to raise the purchasing limit from \$100 to \$300. This act was not approved; however, the same amendment did pass in 1977.

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