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County Government Administration

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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County Government Administration

Reference Number: CTAS-462

Boards and committees involved with county government administration include all of the following:

- Beer Board
- County Election Commission
- County Highway Commission
- County Public Records Commission

Adult-Oriented Establishment Board

Reference Number: CTAS-500

In counties that have adopted the Adult-Oriented Establishment Registration Act of 1998, codified at T.C.A. § 7-51-1101 *et seq.*, by a two-thirds majority vote of the county legislative body, an adult-oriented establishment board must be established to administer the provisions of this law. The board consists of five members, appointed by the county mayor, who serve for terms of four years. Board members serve without compensation but receive reimbursement for actual expenses for attending meeting of the board. T.C.A. § 7-51-1103. More on Regulation of Adult-Oriented Entertainment and Massage can be found in County Powers/Regulatory Powers.

Commission for the Poor

Reference Number: CTAS-757

The Commission for the Poor is a mandatory committee of three members appointed by the county commission. In the selection, the county legislative body shall, at its October session, choose at the beginning one (1) commissioner to hold for the term of one (1) year, another for the term of two (2) years, and a third for a term of three (3) years, and annually thereafter for three (3) years each, and to hold until the successor of each is selected and qualified. Should the court omit to make the appointment at that session, it may be done at any subsequent session. T.C.A. § 71-5-2201 *et seq.*

County Agricultural Extension Committee

Reference Number: CTAS-501

All counties cooperating with the state agricultural extension service operated by the University of Tennessee must have an agricultural extension committee. This committee consists of seven people elected by the county legislative body. Three members must be members of the county legislative body and four members must not be members of the county legislative body. Of these four members, two must be farmers and two must be farm women, residing in different civil districts. The members are elected for terms of two years, but one farmer and one farm woman is elected in even-numbered years and the balance elected in odd-numbered years. No member may be elected to more than three consecutive terms. The committee works with the U.T. agricultural extension representative in formulating the county extension budget for presentation to the county legislative body and serves in an advisory capacity on activities regarding the extension program in the county. T.C.A. § 49-50-104.

County Airport Board

Reference Number: CTAS-502

The county legislative body of a county that has an airport under the authority of T.C.A. § 42-5-101 *et seq.* may by resolution delegate its powers regarding the airport to a board whose number of members, terms, method of appointment, powers and duties are specified in the resolution. T.C.A. § 42-5-112. Joint airport boards, consisting of one or more counties and other public agencies, are also authorized for joint action regarding or joint operation of an airport. T.C.A. § 42-5-202. Joint airport boards consist of members appointed by the governing bodies of the public agencies participating. The number of members, the length of the term and compensation, if any, are determined by the joint agreement. T.C.A. § 42-5-203.

County Board of Health

Reference Number: CTAS-503

Each county is required to have a health department. The county legislative body of each county may establish a board of health consisting of the following:

1. The county mayor,
2. The director of schools or his or her designee,
3. Two physicians licensed to practice in Tennessee nominated by the medical society serving that county,
4. One dentist licensed to practice in Tennessee nominated by the dental society serving that county,
5. One pharmacist licensed to practice in Tennessee nominated by the pharmaceutical society serving that county,
6. One registered nurse licensed to practice in Tennessee nominated by the nurses association serving that county,
7. The county health director and county health officer,
8. At the option of the county legislative body, a doctor of veterinary medicine, and
9. At the option of the county legislative body, a citizen representative who not now nor ever has been a healthcare provider or the spouse of one.

In the event that a nomination is not timely made, the county legislative body may proceed to elect an otherwise qualified member. All members must be residents of the county. In the event that the required members are not available from within the county, the board remains duly constituted. The members who are not ex officio are appointed by the county legislative body to serve for terms of four years. The county board of health governs the policies of full-time county health departments, advises the county mayor on the implementation of state health rules and regulations, and advises the county mayor on the adoption of rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to protect the general health and safety of the citizens of the county. T.C.A. § 68-2-601.

Contiguous counties may by agreement adopted by their respective legislative bodies form a district health department and have a joint district board of health instead of their own county health departments and boards of health when such a combination is determined by the Tennessee Commissioner of Health to be economical. T.C.A. § 68- 2-701. A joint district board of health consists of the county mayor, director of schools and one licensed physician from each participating county. T.C.A. § 68-2-702.

County Monument (Veterans Memorial) Commission

Reference Number: CTAS-504

Under a law enacted in 1919, counties are authorized to appropriate up to \$30,000 to erect monuments, buildings, libraries, and other evidence or appreciation of veterans of wars in which Tennesseans have fought, and in such event the county legislative body is required to select five reputable citizens of the county over 18 years of age to serve as the county monument commission. It is the duty of the county monument commission to oversee the erection of the monument or memorial and when completed to report this in a detailed writing to the county legislative body. T.C.A. §§ 58-4-201 -- 58-4-205.

Another law was enacted in 1945 to authorize both cities and counties to appropriate money to erect memorials to veterans of the various wars in which Tennesseans have fought, which was codified as T.C.A. §§ 58-4-206 -- 58-4-208. This act did not reference the 1919 act, and it contains no limitation on the amount of the appropriations and no requirement for a monument commission.

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