



March 31, 2025

Title 5, Chapter 19

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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Title 5, Chapter 19

Reference Number: CTAS-525

Counties are authorized to provide garbage and rubbish collection and disposal services to the entire county or to special districts within the county and are also granted the power to do all things necessary to carry out these functions. T.C.A. §§ 5-19-101, 5-19-107. This authority is exercised through resolution by the county legislative body and carried out by an existing agency, a county sanitation department, or a county board of sanitation appointed by the county mayor and confirmed by the county legislative body. Also, a county may contract with a private company or another governmental entity to provide these services for county residents. T.C.A. § 5-19-104. If a municipality within the county furnishes garbage (solid waste) collection and disposal services, the county must establish service districts outside the municipality to fund this county service if the property tax is a source of funding for the county solid waste services. T.C.A. § 5-19-108. If the county services are provided within special service districts, they are funded by user fees, or a property tax levied only within the district served, or a combination of the two. T.C.A. §5-19-109. Plans for collection and disposal services must be submitted to the regional planning commission for study before they are carried out. T.C.A. § 5-19-112. The county must inspect these facilities at least once every quarter, and the commissioner of health may also investigate and make recommendations for improvement. T.C.A. §§ 5-19-113, 5-19-114.

County Board of Sanitation

Reference Number: CTAS-526

One of the options given to counties for management of solid waste operations is through a county board of sanitation. T.C.A. § 5-19-103. Such a board may be established by resolution of the county legislative body and consists of three members appointed by the county mayor subject to confirmation of the county legislative body. The members of this board serve for terms of three years except for the initial appointments for one, two and three years to create a staggered system. Members of this board may be compensated according to a resolution of the county legislative body. T.C.A. § 5-19-104. This board has general supervision and control of the acquisition, improvement, operation and maintenance of all solid waste collection and disposal systems operated by the county. If this board is established, then it appoints a superintendent to be in charge of daily solid waste management operations. T.C.A. § 5-19-105.

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