



March 29, 2025

Urban-Type Public Facilities

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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Urban-Type Public Facilities

Reference Number: CTAS-554

Counties are authorized to establish, construct, install, acquire, operate, and maintain urban-type public facilities. These include pipelines, docks, and water treatment systems, as well as operations to dispose of wastewater, sewage, garbage, and other waste matter. T.C.A. § 5-16-101. In order to exercise this authority, the county legislative body, by resolution, may designate an existing agency, create a public works department, or establish a board of public utilities to oversee the project. The composition of this board varies depending on the county's population (T.C.A. § 5-16-103), although a superintendent with specific statutory powers and duties is its head. T.C.A. §§ 5-16-104, 5-16-105. The statute also provides for bond issues (T.C.A. § 5-16-106), and addresses the relationship between cities and counties in the operation of these facilities. T.C.A. §§ 5-16-107, 5-16-110, 5-16-111. Before the county legislative body can authorize any of these services, it must submit plans to the regional planning commission for study. T.C.A. § 5-16-112.

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