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Chapter I - Administration

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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Chapter I - Administration

Budget System

Private Acts of 1945 Chapter 585

SECTION 1. That it shall be the duty of the Road Supervisor on or before the first Monday in April of each year, to prepare and file with the County Court Clerk an itemized statement or budget of the funds which said Commission estimates to be necessary for the construction, maintenance, upkeep, and operation of the roads, bridges in Decatur County, and expenses incident thereto, for the year commencing on the first day of September following the making of said report; the said Budget shall show in detail and in separate items the estimated amounts necessary for salaries and office expenses, new equipment, maintenance or repair of old equipment, bridges, lumber, gravel, the said budget shall likewise show in parallel columns the amounts expended the previous year, if any, for the respective purposes.

That it shall likewise be the duty of the Decatur County Board of Education on or before the first Monday in April of each year to prepare and file with the County Court Clerk of Decatur County an itemized statement or budget of the funds which said Board of Education estimates to be necessary for the maintenance and operation of the schools in Decatur County, and expenses incident thereto, for the year commencing on the first day of September following the making of said report; the said Budget shall show in detail and in separate items the estimated amounts necessary for the office expenses and salaries of the County Superintendent, County Supervisor and his Assistants, salaries for the different county schools, the aggregate of the salaries for each individual school being shown, for the purchase of new equipment and school buildings, janitor service, bus service, insurance, and all other expenses of said Department. The said Budget shall likewise show in parallel columns the amounts expended the previous year for the respective purposes.

That it shall likewise be the duty of the County Judge of Decatur County on or before the first Monday in April of each year to prepare and file with the County Court Clerk of Decatur County an itemized statement or budget of the funds which he estimates necessary to be expended from the General County Fund during the year commencing on the first day of September following the making of his said report, for the payment of salaries, pensions, maintenance of insane patients, jail bills, improvements and repairs of courthouse and jail, court costs, jail buildings, etc., and all expenses which are properly paid out of the General County Fund.

It shall also be the duty of the County Judge of Decatur County at the same time to prepare and file with the Clerk a statement or budget showing the amounts that will be necessary to pay the various county bonds, together with interest thereon, which have been issued by the County, which will mature or become due during the ensuing year. The Budgets of the County Judge will likewise show in parallel columns the amounts expended the previous year for the respective purposes.

That it shall be the duty of all other County Agencies and parties not hereinabove specifically mentioned, having authority to expend or expending County Funds to file with said Clerk each year on or before the first Monday in April an itemized statement or the Budget of the funds estimated to be necessary to be expended by said Agencies or Departments for the year commencing on the first day of September following.

That it shall be the duty of the County Trustee on or before the first Monday in April of each year to prepare and file with the County Court Clerk an itemized statement or estimate of all funds, exclusive of the funds to be derived from the County tax on property, which he has reasonable grounds to believe will be paid into his office during the year commencing on the first of the following September, and which will be available for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the County Government during said year; and said statement shall show the source of each fund and said Trustee shall likewise show in a parallel column the amount received for the same purposes from the same sources during the year ending on the preceding August 31st, as near as may be practicable, and he shall likewise show in said statement the actual amount collected from the County tax on property during the year ending on the preceding August 31st.

It shall be the duty of the County Court Clerk to record the Budgets herein referred to in a well bound book for that purpose and in a manner that shall made a permanent record of the same.

SECTION 2. That it shall be the duty of the County Judge with the approval and confirmation of the Quarterly Court of Decatur County, Tennessee, at its April term each year, to appoint a Committee of

three (3) persons who shall be and constitute the Budget Commission of Decatur County, Tennessee. Only one (1) member may be a member of the Quarterly Court of Decatur County, Tennessee. That the Quarterly Court may in its discretion allow the members of said Commission such compensation for their services as said Court may deem right and proper.

That immediately upon their selection said Budget Commission shall organize by electing a Chairman; and two (2) members of said Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The County Court Clerk or one of his duly authorized Deputies, at the option of the said Commission, shall act as the Secretary of said Commission but shall have not voice or vote in the deliberations of said Commission. That the duties of the Secretary shall be to keep all records of the Commission, including a complete record of the proceedings thereof, assist it in the compilation of the data necessary for the Commission to prepare the budget herein provided for and to assist in the preparation of said Budget, and he shall perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by said Commission. That the County Court in its discretion may compensate said Secretary for services rendered in said capacity.

That each year prior to the meeting of the July Term of the Quarterly Court of Decatur County, it shall be the duty of said Budget Commission to consider and examine the Budgets referred to in Section 1 hereof and such other records and data as may be necessary, and to prepare on appropriated forms a complete itemized Budget covering all of the proposed expenditures of every kind and description to be made by or on behalf of the County for the year beginning on September 1st, following. And in preparing said Budget, said Commission is not to be bound by the amounts fixed in the several Budgets of the various Departments of the County referred to in Section 1 hereof, but shall make such changes therein as in the opinion of said Commission are to the best interest of the County.

That immediately upon its organization, said Budget Commission shall cause to be prepared appropriate printed forms on which the Budgets of the various Departments of the County referred to in Section 1 hereof are to be submitted and also appropriate forms for the Budget herein provided for to be prepared and submitted by said Commission. That said forms shall be of such nature as to enable said Commission to submit to the Quarterly Court as hereinafter provided a complete itemized Budget and Financial Statement of the County in simple, intelligible form, to the end that the Quarterly Court shall have before it in said Budget all of the data necessary to enable it to intelligently determine the proper amount to be allowed the various Departments of the County during the year for which the Budget is proposed and the amount of revenue that will be available to pay the amounts so allowed.

That said Budget, when prepared by said Budget Commission, shall be filed with the County Court Clerk and by him recorded along with the Budgets prepared by the several departments of the County, as hereinabove provided for, in a well bound book and kept as a permanent record in the office of the County Court Clerk; and shall be submitted by the Chairman of the Commission each year to the July Term of the Quarterly Court of Decatur County in open court; and it shall be the duty of said Court before fixing the tax rate for the current year to fully consider in open Court said Budget prepared by said Budget Commission, but the same shall not be in any way binding on said Court. That said Court shall have full right and power to alter, vary or change in any way it deems right and proper said Budget so submitted by said Budget Commission on any part thereof, but it shall be the positive duty of said Court at its July Term each year, to fix, establish and adopt a complete, itemized Budget of the amounts to be expended by each Department of the County government during the year beginning on the first day of September following and no warrant drawn against County funds after September 1, 1945, shall be binding on the County unless the items or expense for which said warrant is issued shall have been included in a Budget adopted by said Court as herein provided for; and no warrant shall be valid or binding on the County after the aggregate amount of warrants theretofore drawn during the fiscal year by or on behalf of any Department of the County Government, shall equal the amount allowed said Department in the Budget adopted for that year.

That in preparing said Budget herein provided for, it shall be the duty of said Budget Commission to take into consideration any unexpended balances that may remain at the end of the year to the credit of any Department from the amount allowed such Department for the previous year.

That as nearly as may be practicable, said Commission shall show in its Budget the amount of actual expenditures of each Department of the County government during the preceding year covering each item or head in the Budget, said amounts for such previous year to be shown in a column parallel to that containing the amount proposed for the ensuing year, so that when completed said Budget will show not only the proposed expenditures for the ensuing year, but the actual expenditures under each head for the preceding year.

That from the data and information herein required to be prepared and filed by the County Trustee and such other data as it may be necessary to examine, said Budget Commission shall likewise show in its Budget an itemized statement or estimate of all funds, exclusive of the funds derived from the County tax

on property, which said Commission has reasonable grounds to believe will be available during the year for payment of the amounts allowed in its said Budget for said year, and it shall also show as nearly as may be practicable, the amounts of revenue derived from the same sources during the preceding year, together with the amount actually collected from the County tax on property during such preceding year.

That said Budget Commission shall, along with its Budget, submit its recommendations to the Court with respect to the tax rate on property for the current year together with its estimate of the amount that will be actually collected during the year beginning on the 1st day of the following September from the tax so recommended. That at the same time and in the same report said Budget Commission shall submit to the Quarterly Court a full and complete statement of all outstanding and unpaid warrants and the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the County, showing the amounts and maturities of all outstanding bonds, the purpose for which issued and any other information relative thereto which said Commission shall deem pertinent.

That along with its Budget and report said Commission shall submit to said Court such other data, information and recommendations as it may deem advisable and necessary to enable the said Quarterly Court and the public to fully understand the financial condition of the County and the necessity for the amounts fixed in said Budget and the tax rate on property recommended by said Commission.

That the Secretary of said Commission shall mail a full and complete copy of the Report and Budget prepared by said Commission to each member of the Quarterly Court at least ten (10) days before the July Term of said Court, and shall also cause said Report and Budget to be published at least once in a newspaper published in Decatur County, said publication to be at least ten (10) days before each July Term of said Court.

COMPILER'S NOTE: A "Section 3" was not included in the original act nor has the act been amended to renumber the sections or add a Section 3.

SECTION 4. That in the event that said Budget Commission fails, refuses or neglects to prepare and submit the Budget herein provided for to the said Quarterly Court at its July Term, then it shall be the duty of said Quarterly Court, at said term of Court to establish and adopt an itemized budget covering the amounts to be expended by each Department of the County Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of the following September, said Budget to be of the same kind and form as that herein required to be prepared by said Budget Commission, and it shall be a misdemeanor in office for any official of Decatur County from and after September 1, 1945, to draw, sign or issue the warrant of Decatur County against any fund of Decatur County unless a Budget had been adopted by said Quarterly Court as herein provided for; and no warrant shall be valid or binding on the County of Decatur unless the item of expense for which said warrant is drawn shall have been included in a Budget adopted according to the provisions hereof.

That the Budget is finally adopted by the Quarterly Court at its July term each year shall be spread on the minutes of said Court, and from and after September 1, 1945, no warrants shall be drawn against any funds of Decatur County by any Official of said County unless and until a Budget has been adopted by said Quarterly Court as herein required; provided that warrants may be issued prior to September 1, 1945, covering any obligation or indebtedness of said County actually incurred prior to said date.

SECTION 5. That it shall be the duty of each Department of the County government that disburses public funds, including the Board of Education, Road Supervisor, County Court Clerk and County Judge in regard to the fund designated as the "General County Fund," to keep all such books and records as will enable them to fully and specifically comply with the provisions of this Act. Each of said Departments and Officials shall close the books kept by it or him as of the 31st day of August each year, showing the balance to its or his credit, said balance to represent the difference between the amount allowed said Department or fund in the Budget for the year ending on that date and the aggregate amount of the warrants issued and chargeable against said amount allowed in said Budget, regardless of whether said warrants have been paid or not; and it shall likewise be the duty of each of said Departments and said officials to open its or his books on the first day of September of each year bringing forward the balance, if any, arrived at in the manner herein provided for, remaining to the credit of said Department or Fund from the previous year, to which shall be added the amount allowed said Department or Fund in the Budget adopted by the Quarterly Court at its July Term next preceding.

That said books shall be kept in such a manner as to at all times show the amount allowed that Department or Fund in said Budget adopted at the July Term of the Quarterly Court and the amount of all warrants drawn and chargeable against said Fund, regardless of whether said warrants have been paid or not, said warrants to be posted in said books as the same are issued.

That on the first day of each September hereafter the amount allowed each Department or Disbursing Agency of the County Government or County fund in said Budget, shall also be placed at an appropriate

place on the stubs in the several warrant books containing the warrants to be used by said Department or County Agency in drawing on County Funds and said amount shall be added to any balance remaining from the previous year; and at the end of each day it shall be the duty of every official issuing warrants of any kind against any such funds to subtract the aggregate of the warrants issued that day from the previous balance arrived at as herein provided for, and the balance thus arrived at shall be brought forward each day at an appropriate place on the stubs remaining in said warrant books; and at the end of each month it shall be the duty of every Official drawing warrants against any fund of Decatur County to reconcile the balance to the credit of the fund drawn against as shown on the warrant stubs with the balance to the credit of said Fund as shown by the books required to be kept by said Official; provided that for the year beginning the 1st day of September, 1945, the books of each Department shall be opened by placing to the credit of each Department the amount allowed it in the Budget adopted at the July Term, 1945, of the Quarterly Court without regard to the number of warrants theretofore issued by said Department or the head thereof which have not been paid; and said amount so allowed said Department for the year beginning September 1, 1945, shall also be placed at an appropriate place on the stubs of the warrant book used by said Department before any warrants are drawn or issued by said Department after the beginning of said year, and thereafter the balance from day to day shall be arrived at and carried in said warrant stubs as herein provided for.

SECTION 6. That it shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor in office for any official or employee of Decatur County to draw, sign, issue, deliver, or to authorize the drawing, signing, issuance or delivery of any warrant against any fund of said County, when the aggregate of the warrants theretofore issued or signed, whether the same have been paid by the Trustee or not, equals the amount allowed in the Budget adopted by the Quarterly County Court to that Department or Fund of the County against which said warrant would otherwise be chargeable, plus the balance, if any, that may have been brought forward to the credit of such Department or fund from the previous year, and it shall also be a misdemeanor in office for any official to sign or issue, or authorize the signing or issuance of a warrant or warrants against any County Fund, in excess of the amount allowed said Fund in the Budget adopted by the Quarterly Court plus any balance remaining to the credit of such fund from the previous year.

That it shall be the mandatory duty of every official drawing warrants against any County Fund to keep advised and know before he signs, issues or delivers any warrant, whether or not the aggregate of the warrants theretofore issued against said Funds out of which said warrant is payable equals the amount allowed said Fund or Department in the Budget for that year plus any balance brought forward from the previous year, and it shall be the duty of said Budget Commission before submitting its annual report to the Quarterly Court to examine the books and records of each Department of the County Government for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the warrants issued by or on behalf of said Departments during the year ending on the preceding August 31st have exceeded the amount allowed said Departments in the Budget adopted for that year, and said Commission shall show in its report to be filed with its Budget each year the Departments, if any, that have issued warrants in excess of the amounts allowed such Department in the Budget for said year, and it shall be the mandatory duty of the Quarterly Court to certify the facts to the District Attorney General for presentation to the Grand Jury at the next term of the Circuit Court; and it shall be the duty of the District Attorney General to present the facts to said Grand Jury and to institute such other proceedings as may be necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. That it shall be a misdemeanor in office for any county officer or agent or employee, including the Road Supervisor, the members of the Decatur County Board of Education, the County Superintendent of Education, the County Judge and the County Court Clerk, to violate any provision of this Act or to fail or refuse to do or perform any of the duties place upon them or any of them by this Act, and any such officer or officers failing to perform the duties imposed by this Act, shall be subject to a fine of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars and be subject to removal from office, in any appropriate legal proceeding brought for that purpose.

SECTION 8. That the County Judge of Decatur County shall be ex-officio the Director of the Budget of the County, and it shall be his duty to supervise and control all expenditures of public funds, including School Funds, Highway or Road Funds, disbursements from the General Fund, and all monies or funds of the County of every kind and nature whatsoever belonging to the County or under control of any of its Boards, Departments, or Agencies. He shall countersign all warrants drawn by any and every official, agent, or employee, against any and every public fund of the County, and no warrant drawn against any such fund shall be valid and binding on or against the County of Decatur or any of its public funds unless the same shall have been countersigned by the County Judge before its presentation for payment, nor shall any warrant be void unless countersigned by the county executive.

The County Judge shall not have authority to direct the policies or operation of the Road and School Systems of the County, nor of the Road Supervisor or the County Board of Education, but he shall keep a

record of the expenditures, and his books shall be kept in such a manner as to at all times show amount allowed each Department or Fund in the Budget adopted at the July term of the Quarterly Court, the total amount of all warrants drawn and chargeable against each of said Funds--whether paid or not--and the unexpended balance of the budgeted allowance to each Department or Fund. Whenever the total or aggregate of the warrants drawn against any fund of the County equals or exceeds the amount allowed in the Budget to that Department or Fund by the Quarterly Court, it shall be unlawful for the County Judge to countersign any warrant or warrants against said Fund. He shall furnish reports to the Quarterly Court of the County at every regular quarterly meeting showing the status of the Budget of each Department, and at any special meeting when advisable or necessary. He shall allow the Budget Commission referred to in Section 2 hereof, or any member thereof, or any member of the Quarterly Court, to inspect his books and records at any time, and they shall be audited at such times as may be prescribed by the Quarterly Court. Any taxpayer of the County shall likewise be allowed to examine his books at any time.

The County Judge, as Director ex-officio Budget Director of the County, shall execute a bond for the faithful performance of his duties, such bond to be a corporate surety bond in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, the premium for which shall be paid out of the County Funds.

SECTION 9. For performing his duties in directing the Budget of the County as provided in Section 7 hereof, the County Judge shall receive compensation of Seven Hundred Fifty (\$750.00) Dollars per annum, payable in equal amounts monthly, by warrants drawn against the General Fund of the County, which amount shall be in addition to all other salaries received by the County Judge for other services and duties. No warrant shall be void until countersigned by the county executive.

As amended by:

Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 97

Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 100

SECTION 10. That the General Assembly hereby declares it to be the legislative intent that this Act shall be severable, and that the invalidity or unconstitutionality of any section, sentence, or provision hereof shall not affect or render invalid the remaining parts or portions of the Act.

SECTION 11. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 2, 1945.

Administration - Historical Notes

Budget System

The following act once created a budgeting system for Decatur County, but it has been specifically repealed or superseded by current law.

1. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 584, established a Budget System for Decatur County. This system required the filing of budgets by the Highway Department, the Board of Education, the County Judge, the County Trustee, and the County Court Clerk, who was also responsible for keeping the same. The County Judge must appoint a Budget Commission of three persons who would select their Chairman, and be served by the County Court Clerk as Secretary. The Commission shall consider the Budgets filed with the Clerk, making such changes as they may deem appropriate. The finished Budgets will be presented to the Quarterly County Court at its July meeting, who can also make any alterations deemed necessary, and who may consider all this data in fixing the tax rates. Penalties are provided for those failing to perform their duty as the same was imposed by this act, which included, in some cases, the forfeiture of office and a five year ban on holding one thereafter. This act was apparently superseded, though not repealed, by the one published herein.

County Legislative Body

The following acts once applied to the quarterly court or the county legislative body of Decatur County and 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 109, stated that the Justices of the Peace in Decatur County, identified by the use of the 1920 Federal Census figures, would receive the sum of \$3.00 as their per diem compensation for their attendance at the regular sessions of the Quarterly County Court, plus such mileage allowances as the law might provide.
2. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 321, provided that, subject to the successful outcome in a public referendum to be held for that purpose, the Justices of the Peace in Decatur County would be paid \$8.00 per day for each day of actual attendance at the meetings of the Quarterly County Court. This Act was rejected by the Quarterly Court and, therefore, never became an effective law under the Home Rule Amendment to the State Constitution.

County Mayor

The references below are of acts which once applied to the office of county judge, or county executive in Decatur County. They are included herein for historical purposes only. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1856, Chapter 253, created the office of County Judge for every county in the state, abolishing the Quorum Courts, and conferring the duties of the Chairman of the County Court upon the Judge provided for herein. The Judge must be learned in the law and would be elected by popular vote to a four year term. He would be the account officer and general agent of the county and would exercise the judicial powers and functions enumerated in the act. The Judge would be paid \$5.00 per day for each day spent in the office during the sitting of the monthly and Quarterly Courts, and he would not be prohibited from practicing law except in his own court. This act was repealed by the one below.
2. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 5, repealed Acts of 1856, Chapter 253, above, restoring the Quorum Courts as they existed prior to the passage of that act and reviving all laws which might have been repealed by it.
3. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 30, again created the office of County Judge in Perry, Decatur, Cheatham, and Lauderdale Counties. The Judge would be commissioned as other judges were, serve an eight year term, and be paid \$200 per year. The Judge would be the accounting officer and general agent for the county exercising the functions and authority expressed in this law which included the duties of the Chairman of the County Court. Quorum Courts were abolished and the Judge would assume the responsibilities of those courts. The County Court Clerk would act accordingly and keep the dockets of the court. The County Judge was free to practice law in every court except his. This act was repealed by the one following.
4. Public Acts of 1868-69 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 24, repealed the act in Item 3, above, which created the office of County Judge in those counties named therein, as the same was applied to Decatur County.
5. Public Acts of 1869-70, Chapter 73, stated that so much of an act passed in January, 1868, which created the office of County Judge in Decatur County be, and the same is, hereby reenacted, and the act, passed January 29, 1869, which repealed the above act, as applied to Decatur County, is itself hereby repealed.
6. Acts of 1871, Chapter 8, provided that so much of the act, passed on February 24, 1870, as the same relates to the County Judge in Decatur County, is hereby repealed and the office of County Judge is abolished in Decatur County.
7. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 254, as amended by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 322, Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 589, Private Acts of 1973, Chapter 113, Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 42, and Private Acts of 1991, Chapter 123, created the office of county judge in Decatur County. The office of chairman of the county court was abolished and the powers, jurisdiction, and authority exercised by the chairman were conferred by law upon the county judge.
8. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 129, provided that the County Judge of Decatur County shall receive, in addition to the salary now provided by law for his services as County Judge, the sum of \$700 per year for his services as accounting officer, financial and general agent of the county which shall be paid out of the county treasury on the Judge's own warrant. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 323.
9. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 322, amended Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 254, Section One, by striking the requirement that the County Judge must be a licensed lawyer of at least three years practice in the State.
10. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 323, repealed Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 129, Item 8, above.
11. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 389, created a Board of County Commissioners for Decatur County, granting the Chairman the authority to exercise the duties of the County Judge except in the juvenile, probate, and County Courts, and prohibiting the County Judge from being paid anything for acting as financial and purchasing agent for the county.
12. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 425, amended Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 389, Section 6, by striking that portion of the law which denied the County Judge any compensation for his services as financial, and purchasing agent of the county, and allowed the Quarterly Court to pay the Judge up to \$500.00 per year as additional compensation for serving in the capacity of an administrator.
13. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 589, as amended by Private Acts of 1973, Chapter 113 and Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 42, added a new section 8 to Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 254, which

made the County Judge (now County Executive) the county purchasing agent. This section was deleted in its entirety by Private Acts of 1991, Chapter 123.

14. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 835, is listed as being applicable to Decatur County but the act which it amends is applicable only to Benton County.
15. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 197, would have amended Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 589, by striking out a portion of Section One and inserting a new Section which gave the County Judge sole authority to make all purchases for the County and to arrange for the purchase, or rental, or real estate; by incorporating new bid procedures for all purchases over \$500.00 which were required to be strictly observed, but which were optional for purchases under that amount. The Road Supervisor was not included within the purview of this act for purchases under \$100. This act was rejected by the Decatur County Quarterly Court and never became a law.
16. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 204, amended Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 254, by permitting the County Judge to employ a secretary at an annual salary of up to \$1,800, payable in equal monthly installments. This act was likewise rejected at the local level and did not become an effective law under the Home Rule provision of the Tennessee Constitution.
17. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 235, had reference to both the County Judge and the General Sessions Court but did not apply to Decatur County, only to Coffee County.

County Register

The following acts once affected the office of county register in Decatur 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 245, stated that no conveyance in writing, deeds of trust, or other lien instruments, shall be received for registration by the County Register unless the same bears a stamp, or notation, that such conveyance has been presented to the Assessor of Property, or his Deputy with the information set out in Section 2 of this Act. The report from Secretary of State's office in this Act was not acted on by local authorities, and, if true, the law would be nullified.
2. Private Acts of 1973, Chapter 13, authorized the County Register of Decatur County to employ a suitable person as a clerical assistant at a salary not to exceed the sum of \$300 per month which was to be paid out of the general funds of the County. This Act was not acted on in any way by the Quarterly Court and consequently did not become a law.

General Reference

The following private or local acts constitute part of the administrative and political history of Decatur County but are today no longer operative because they have either been superseded, repealed, or failed to receive local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 52, stated that Perry and Decatur County shall have a Director in the Branch of the Bank of Tennessee at Trenton who would be appointed in the same way and have the same rights and privileges as the other Directors of the said Bank.
2. Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 55, Section 13, incorporated the city of Decaturville conferring upon it all the rights and authority and making it subject to the same obligations and liabilities as the town of Linden in Perry County.
3. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 126, abolished the post of Entry Taker in Lawrence, Dekalb, White, Macon, Decatur, Grundy, Humphreys and Wilson Counties. The Surveyors of the above counties would assume all the duties and responsibilities of the office of Entry Taker and be paid the same fees and emoluments as were provided under the law.
4. Acts of 1897, Chapter 124, provided for and regulated the salaries of the Clerk and Master, the Clerks of the various County, Circuit, Special, and Criminal Courts, Trustees, Registers, Sheriffs, and the Supreme Court Clerks according to the population of the county in which they served. The fees of the various offices were declared to be the property of the counties. The office holders involved were required to file sworn, itemized statements with the County Judge, or Chairman, showing the amount of fees collected. Parts of this Act were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in Weaver v. Davidson County (1900), 104 Tenn. 315, 59 S.W. 1105, but many of its features have been carried over into the current salary statutes.
5. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 389, established a three member Board of County Commissioners in Decatur County, who were to be elected by popular vote in the August general elections, taking office for two years on the following September 1. The Commissioners must be at least thirty years old, a resident of the County for ten years, and could hold no county office or be a member

of the Quarterly Court. The Chairman, chosen by other members, would be paid \$40.00 per month, and the other members \$5.00 per day for each day actually spent discharging the duties of the Board, and the responsibilities of the Chairman were enumerated in several paragraphs of the Act. The Commission could appoint a Secretary at a salary not to exceed \$30.00 per month. The Chairman would exercise the duties of the County Judge except in the Juvenile, Probate, and County Courts. The County Judge would continue to draw \$300.00 per annum but would receive no pay for performing the duties of financial agent, or purchasing agent. This Act was repealed by the one below.

6. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 586, repealed Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 389, which is Item 5, above.
7. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 99, also repealed Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 389, which created a Board of County Commissioners in Decatur County.
8. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 116, created the Industrial Port Authority which was calculated to facilitate transportation and fully utilize the regional resources around Decatur County by exercising the power and authority granted to the Authority in the body of the Act. A seven member Port Authority Commission was established which would supervise and promote the construction, acquisition, ownership, maintenance, and operation of publicly owned ports, airports, storage, transfer, and transportation facilities by Decatur County. The authority was conferred upon the Authority to issue bonds of a general obligation nature under the limitations expressed in the Act. The Act named Harold White, Fred Alexander, A. B. White, Jr., Paul Strigel, H. D. Pevahouse, N. H. Boggie, and J. L. Tinker, as the members of the first commission. This Act was rejected by the Quarterly County Court and therefore never became a law under the provisions of the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution.
9. Private Acts of 1972, Chapter 375, was the legislative authority for the Decatur County Quarterly Court to establish a ferry service in accordance with the provisions of Section 54-2101, and following, Tennessee Code Annotated, and to charge fees, as provided therein, for the sole purpose of maintaining the said ferry. Our information is that this Act was never acted upon by the Decatur County Quarterly Court.

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