



April 25, 2025

Curfew Laws

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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Curfew Laws

Private Acts of 1969 Chapter 164

SECTION 1. In counties having a population of Six Hundred Thousand (600,000) or more, according to the Federal Census of 1960 or any subsequent Federal Census, a minor under eighteen (18) years of age, shall not loiter, idle, wander or play in or upon the public street, highways, alleys, parks, playgrounds, schools or other public grounds, public places and public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lots, or any unsupervised place in said county, between the hours of 12:00 o'clock midnight and 5:00 o'clock A.M., official time, provided that this Section shall not apply to a child accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or other adult person having the care and custody of said minor.

SECTION 2. When any child is in violation of this Act, the apprehending officer shall act in one of the following ways:

- (1) If a first violation, and if in the opinion of the officer such action shall be effective, take the child to his or her home and warn and counsel with the parents or guardians.
- (2) Issue a summons to the child and/or parents or guardians to appear at the Juvenile Court.
- (3) Bring the child into the custody of the Juvenile Court for disposition.

SECTION 3. With the exception of the provisions contained in Section 1 hereof, no parent, guardian, or other person having the care and custody of a child who has not reached his eighteenth birthday shall knowingly permit such child to loiter, idle, wander or play in or upon the public streets, highways, alleys, parks, playgrounds, schools or other public grounds, public places and public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lots, or any unsupervised place in said county, between the hours of 12:00 o'clock midnight and 5:00 o'clock A.M., official time.

SECTION 4. A minor or any parent, guardian, or other person having the care and custody of a minor violating the provisions of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined no more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each offense; each violation of the provisions of this Act shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 5. The Judge of the Juvenile Court shall be vested with power to hear all cases coming within the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Should any section or provision of this Act be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Act as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so held to be unconstitutional.

SECTION 7. This Act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Quarterly County Court of Shelby County before July 1, 1969. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Quarterly County Court and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 8. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this Act, as provided in Section 7, it shall be effective upon becoming a law. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 7.

Passed: May 6, 1969.

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