



July 03, 2024

---

# Offenses

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://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,

The University of Tennessee  
County Technical Assistance Service  
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
615.532.3555 phone  
615.532.3699 fax  
[www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

Table of Contents

<b>Offenses</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Fireworks</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Private Acts of 1963 Chapter 205</b> .....	<b>3</b>

# Offenses

## Fireworks

### Private Acts of 1963 Chapter 205

**SECTION 1.** That from and after the effective date of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to possess, store, use, manufacture, or sell pyrotechnics, as hereinafter defined, in all Counties of this State having a population of not less than 39,100 and not more than 39,150 inhabitants, according to the Federal Census of 1960, or any subsequent Federal Census.

The term "pyrotechnics" as used in this Act shall be held to mean any sparkler, squib, rocket, firecracker, Roman candle, fire balloon, flashlight composition, fireworks or other similar device or composition used to obtain a visible or audible pyrotechnic display.

**SECTION 2.** That any article or articles of merchandise coming within the definition of "pyrotechnics" as defined in this Act, are hereby declared to be contraband, and subject to confiscation whenever found within the boundaries of any county within this State to which this Act is applicable, and it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of any such County, and all peace officers, to seize such article or articles and destroy the same.

**SECTION 3.** That any person guilty of violating any of the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$400.00, or by confinement in the County jail for not less than thirty days and not more than eleven months and twenty-nine days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the Court.

**SECTION 4.** That nothing in this Act shall be construed as applying to persons, firms and corporations conducting public displays of pyrotechnics by contract or arrangement with any State Fair, patriotic assembly or similar public functions, who acquire all articles used in such pyrotechnic displays from points outside the Counties in this State to which this Act is applicable, and keep such pyrotechnic articles in their possession at all times during the public gathering, and transport the same out of this County upon the conclusion of the arrangement or contract under which such pyrotechnics are displayed for public entertainment.

**SECTION 5.** That the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable, and if any of its sections, provisions, clauses, or parts be held unconstitutional or void, then the remainder of this Act shall continue in full force and effect, it being the legislative intent now hereby declared, that this Act would have been adopted even if such unconstitutional or void matter had not been included herein.

**SECTION 6.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by a majority of the voters voting in an election to be held for such purpose. Within 15 days after the approval of this Act by the Governor, or after its otherwise effective date, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners of the county to which this Act applies, to call an election for the county to be held not less than 20 nor more than 40 days from the date of such call for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the provisions of this Act. The ballots used in such election shall have printed thereon the title of this Act and voters shall vote for or against its adoption. The votes cast at such election shall be canvassed by the county board of election commissioners upon the first Monday occurring 5 or more days next after the date of such election and the results shall be proclaimed by such board and certified to the Secretary of State. The qualification of voters shall be that provided by law for participation in general elections and all laws applicable to general elections shall apply to an election held hereunder. The cost of said election shall be paid by the county to which this Act applies.

**SECTION 7.** That this Act shall be effective from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it, but the provisions thereof shall not become operative until validated as provided in Section 6 herein.

Passed: March 19, 1963

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/offenses-16>