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# Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 39

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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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Table of Contents

<b>Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 39 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
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## Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 39

**SECTION 1.** That quarterly county courts in counties having a population of not less than 14,000 and not more than 14,900 inhabitants according to the Federal Census of 1950, or any subsequent Federal Census, be and they are hereby authorized to pay out of the ordinary funds of the county all claims for money damages now accumulated, or which may hereafter accumulate, growing out of the injury or death of any employee of any department, division, bureau, commission or agency of said county, received by such employee in the line of duty and in the course of employment, whether such injury shall be accidental or otherwise. Said counties are hereby authorized to pay and compensate dependents of such employee (as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this State) in cash for death arising out of such injury; provided however, that any award or settlement made under this Act shall in no event exceed the amount which would be allowable under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Law of this State.

Said Counties may allow less than the amount provided by the Workmens' Compensation Law, or, if the claim is not deemed meritorious, may disallow the same entirely.

**SECTION 2.** That any settlement or award made by any such county courts shall be made after a careful and thorough investigation of all the facts and circumstances in controversy, and no award or settlement shall be made unless the facts found by said court or its duly authorized committee as hereafter provided, shall establish such a case of liability on the part of the county as would entitle the claimant to a judgment in an action at law, if the county were amenable to such.

No claim provided for under this Act may be considered by the quarterly county court which has not been presented to it by sworn petition duly filed within four years from the date on which the claim first accrued.

**SECTION 3.** That such quarterly county courts be and the same are hereby authorized to establish and promulgate such rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may be necessary for the ordinary procedure in the filing, investigation, hearing and disposition of such claims before them.

Such quarterly county courts shall designate a standing committee of not more than three members, composed of the members of said courts, to hear evidence and make recommendations to the court with respect to the disposition of any such claim, and such court or its said standing committee is authorized to promulgate rules for the taking of evidence at such times and places as may be conducive to economy of expenses and convenience of the witnesses for both the claimant and the county, insofar as possible.

The claimant shall be given written notice of such hearing at least five days prior to the date set therefor. The members of such standing committee shall be chosen and vacancies shall be filled according to the procedure of the county courts for the selection and appointment of the members of its regular standing committees.

**SECTION 4.** That the decision of such quarterly county court upon any claims filed hereunder shall be final.

**SECTION 5.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall have been approved by a two-thirds vote of the quarterly county court of any county to which it may apply on or before the next regular meeting of such quarterly county court occurring more than thirty days after its approval by the Chief Executive of this State. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the county judge or chairman, and shall be certified by him to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 6.** That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 3, 1955.

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