



February 05, 2025

Law Enforcement - Historical Notes

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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Sheriff

The following acts have no current effect but are included here for reference purposes since they once applied to the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 113, authorized the state Comptroller to pay Major H. Hancock, the sheriff of Polk County, the amount of \$32.91 which had been overpaid through mistake as the tax assessed on the school land in the Ducktown District of Polk County.
2. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 129, provided that law enforcement officers were to receive 10¢ per mile for conveying prisoners under work-house mittimus.
3. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 438, set the salary of the sheriff at \$2,000 per year, in lieu of all fees collected by his office. This was amended by Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 103, to raise the annual salary to \$3,000.
4. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 730, provided that workhouse bond was to be received, approved and collected by the Criminal Court Clerk. This was amended by Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 720, to provide that such workhouse bonds were to insure payment of attorney's fees. The applicability of these acts to Polk County was repealed by Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 279.
5. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 750, created the office of chief deputy sheriff, at an annual salary of \$1,800, to be appointed by the sheriff. The chief deputy was to devote his entire time to his duties and was subject to removal at the pleasure of the sheriff. This was amended by Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 570, to lower the annual salary of the chief deputy to \$1,200, and these acts were repealed by Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 22.
6. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 571, set the salary of the Polk County sheriff at \$2,400 per annum, in addition to the fees of the office. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 29.
7. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 369, provided that all workhouse bond was to be received, approved and collected by the sheriff.
8. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 217, attempted to place the Polk County sheriff on salary, removing that office from the fee system, but this act was rejected by the voters of Polk County and never became e

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