

This publication contains summaries of acts passed by the General Assembly in 2013 that may be of interest to county governments. These summaries are intended for information only and should not be relied upon for implementation purposes. The full text of all acts summarized in this publication can be viewed on the Secretary of State's website:
<http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/acts/index.htm>

INDEX OF ACTS RELATED TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**2014 EDITION
Laws Effective January 2015**

**COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE
...a service of The University of Tennessee**

**Prepared by
CTAS Legal Staff**

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PART I - PUBLIC ACTS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

COUNTY CLERKS

Public Chapter 958
SB 1826 – HB 1699

18-Month Registrations

Amends 55-4-104 to permit issuance of registrations valid for 18 months for businesses that register at least 15,000 vehicles annually and are engaged in the rental of vehicles for periods of 31 days or less.

Effective May 19, 2014, and applies to registrations or renewals on or after January 1, 2015.

COURTS & COURT CLERKS

Public Chapter 737
SB 1673 - HB 1401

Collection of Delinquent Fines, Costs and Taxes

Amends 40-24-105 and 20-12-144 relative to the collection of delinquent fines, costs and litigation taxes in criminal and civil cases. Provides that on or after January 1, 2015, if fines, costs, or litigation taxes have been in default for at least six months and an agent is used to collect, the agent's collection fee shall be added to the total amount owed. The agent's collection fee shall not exceed 40% of any amounts actually collected. Provides that any changes to a court clerk's computer system or software necessitated by the use of a collection agent under the act shall be paid for by funds collected by the clerk for computer related expenses pursuant to 8-21-401(j) to the extent such funds are available. No state funds shall be allocated to make any changes to a court clerk's computer system or software necessitated by the act.

Effective April 22, 2014 (additional fee if a collection agent is used applicable to all amounts that have been owed for at least six months on January 1, 2015, or become owed for at least six months after January 1, 2015, whether the case was adjudicated prior to, or on or after, the effective date of the act).

EDUCATION

Public Chapter 795
SB 2407 - HB 2255

911 Funding Modernization and IP Transition Act of 2014

Amends 7-86-103; 7-86-110; 7-86-128; 7-86-303; 7-86-305; 7-86-320; 29-20-108; 65-21-115; and 9-8-307(a). Adds 7-86-130 and 7-86-131. Deletes 7-86-108; 7-86-111 and 7-86-112. Alters provisions concerning the statewide prepaid wireless emergency

telephone charge. Requires dealers to collect a 911 surcharge of \$1.16 for a retail sale of communications service or prepaid communications service from a consumer. Alters the requirements for adjusting the surcharge. Alters the funding of the emergency communications board. Requires the board's operational expenses to include the implementation and maintenance of an IP-based next generation 911 network and certain future 911 system advancements. Extends immunity to employees of an emergency communications district and county and municipal governments for the acts or omissions of employees that manage, supervise, or perform 911 emergency communications service as communicators or dispatchers, provided that all such employees attain and maintain training requirements as required by law.

Effective January 1, 2015.

JAILS

Public Chapter 582
SB 1616 - HB 1412

Claims for Expenses for State Inmates

Amends 41-4-115 to provide that no claim against the state for the payment of medical expenses under this section shall be paid unless the claim is submitted to the department of correction within six (6) months from the date the services were provided. Enacts 40-25-1__ to provide that no claim against the state for the payment of costs incurred in the prosecution and safekeeping of criminal defendants shall be paid unless the claim is submitted to the department of correction within six months from the date of entry of the judgment of conviction.

Effective January 15, 2015.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public Chapter 983
SB 1663 - HB 1512

Opioid or Benzodiazepine

Amends Title 63, Chapter 1, part 1, to provide that within 10 days after the effective date of this act, each medical practitioner licensed under this title, unless excepted, shall ensure that the undispensed inventory of opioids and benzodiazepines purchased under the prescriber's drug enforcement administration number for dispensing is: (1) returned in compliance with this act to a licensed third party reverse distributor; or (2) turned in to local law enforcement agencies and abandoned.

Effective January 1, 2015.

Public Chapter 826

Employee Online Privacy Act

SB 1808 – HB 1852

Enacts 50-1-____, the Employee Online Privacy Act of 2014, to prohibit employers from requesting or requiring an employee or applicant to disclose a password to their personal internet account, or compelling the employee or applicant to add the employer to their list of contacts or allow the employer to view the contents of their personal internet account. Employers may not refuse to hire, or penalize or take any adverse action against, an employee or applicant for failure to disclose such information or take such action. The act does not prohibit employers from obtaining passwords or gaining access to accounts supplied by or paid for wholly or in part by the employer or used for the employer's business purposes, or conducting business-related investigations, or restricting access to certain websites, or monitoring or blocking electronic data stored on a device supplied by or paid for wholly or in part by the employer or stored on the employer's network, or viewing information about an employee or applicant without use of the prohibited information.

Effective January 1, 2015.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Public Chapter 524
Public Chapter 686
SB 915 – HB 964

Agricultural Exemption **Vested Property Rights Act of 2014**

Amends 13-3-413 and 13-4-310 to create vested rights in preliminary development plans or final development plans or building permits if preliminary plans are not required. Provides that the vesting period for building permits is as specified in the permit. Provides that the vesting period for development plans is three years from the date of preliminary plan approval. If an applicant receives final development plan approval, then the applicant is eligible to receive two additional years. Specifies that the total vesting period may not exceed 10 years unless the local government grants an extension. The maximum vesting period for multi-phase developments is 15 years (for all phases); however, this time period can also be extended by the local government. Provides that the development standards in effect at the time of plan or permit approval will apply to the property during the vesting period. Specifies certain circumstances in which vesting rights can be terminated.

Effective April 15, 2014 for purposes of local government adoption of a vested property rights ordinance or resolution.
Effective January 1, 2015 for all other purposes.

TAXATION

Public Chapter 854
SB 1635 – HB 1431

Tax Settlements

Amends 67-1-102 to authorize, rather than require, approval of tax settlements by the Comptroller and Attorney General. Amends 67-1-110 to revise various taxpayer rights to include the right to an informal conference regarding tax liabilities. Amends 67-1-801 regarding the rate of interest. Amends 67-1-1438 to require any suit challenging an assessment to be filed within 90 days from the date of final assessment. Revises various other provisions regarding issuing and disputing assessments.

Effective January 1, 2015.

TAXATION - PROPERTY

Public Chapter 589
SB 1677 - HB 1448

Agricultural, Forest and Open Space Land

Amends 67-5-1008 (c)(2)(C) to provide that the capitalization rate shall be the maximum allowable rate on loans for terms in excess of five years guaranteed by the federal Farm Service Agency or its successor, as of the assessment date for the year in which the use value schedule is being developed.

Effective January 1, 2015.

PART II - PUBLIC ACTS OF LOCAL APPLICATION

FRANKLIN

Public Chapter 838
SB 2109 – HB 2256

County Boundary
Changes the boundary between Franklin County and Marion County.

Effective January 1, 2015.

MARION

Public Chapter 838
SB 2109 – HB 2256

County Boundary
Changes the boundary between Franklin County and Marion County.

Effective January 1, 2015.