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Tennessee Code 68-2-603 – Establishment of county health department – County health director – County health officer

Current as of: 2024 | *Check for updates* | *Other versions*

(a)

Attorney's Note

Under the Tennessee Code, punishments for crimes depend on the classification. In the case of this section:

Class	Prison	Fine
class C misdemeanor	up to 30 days	up to \$50

For details, see [Tenn. Code § 40-35-111](#)



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Terms Used In Tennessee Code 68-2-603

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Affirmed: In the practice of the appellate courts, the decree or order is declared valid and will stand as rendered in the lower court.

County mayor: means and includes "county executive" unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. See [Tennessee Code 1-3-105](#)

signed: includes a mark, the name being written near the mark and witnessed, or any other symbol or methodology executed or adopted by a party with intention to authenticate a writing or record, regardless of being witnessed. See [Tennessee Code 1-3-105](#)

State: when applied to the different parts of the United States, includes the District of Columbia and the several territories of the United States. See [Tennessee Code 1-3-105](#)

written: includes printing, typewriting, engraving, lithography, and any other mode of representing words and letters. See [Tennessee Code 1-3-105](#)

- (1)** Each county shall establish a county health department which shall be headed by, and under the immediate direction of, a county health director.
- (2)** The county health director shall be appointed by the commissioner of health or by the commissioner's designee, act as the administrative officer of the county health department, take actions and make determinations necessary to properly execute the [state](#) department of health's programs, and adequately enforce the rules and regulations established by the commissioner.
- (3)** The county health director shall be a health professional who possesses the necessary education and experience in public health administration as determined by the state department of health and approved by the department of human resources.
- (4)** The county health director shall have compensation paid, all or in part, by the state department of health.
- (5)** If the county health director is a qualified physician, such county health director may also serve as a county health officer.
- (6)** When the commissioner appoints a county health director pursuant to this subsection (a), the appointment shall be made in writing by the commissioner in concurrence with the [county mayor](#) of the county for which the appointment is made. The mayor shall submit a slate of not more than three (3) nominees to the commissioner for consideration within ten (10) days of a request for nominees by the commissioner. The commissioner may appoint a health director from the list of nominees or request additional nominees.
 - (b)** It is the county health director's duty to enforce the regulations of the state department of health.
 - (c)** The commissioner may appoint a county health officer responsible for providing medical direction, including medical enforcement actions. The county health officer shall be a graduate doctor of medicine or osteopathy, schooled and experienced in public health work and licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee. The county health officer shall have compensation paid, all or in part, by the state department of health.
 - (d)** Any person who undertakes to hold the position of county health officer without being qualified as provided in this section commits a Class C misdemeanor.
 - (e)** In the absence of a duly-appointed county health officer, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall appoint a physician who shall provide medical direction, including the authority outlined in [§ 68-2-609](#).
 - (f)** Except as provided in subsection (g), in the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, any person who files with the county board of health a [signed](#), [written](#) statement that a

specific regulation pertaining to personal medical treatment conflicts with the person's religious tenets and practices, **affirmed** under penalty of perjury, shall be exempted from the regulation. **(g)** This section does not apply to an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

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- [U.S. Code > Title 42 > Chapter 1 - The Public Health Service](#)
- [U.S. Code > Title 42 > Chapter 6A > Subchapter I - Administration and Miscellaneous Provisions](#)

California

- [California Codes > Health and Safety Code > Division 1 - Administration of Public Health](#)
- [California Codes > Health and Safety Code > Division 101 - Administration of Public Health](#)

Florida

- [Florida Statutes 154.001 - System of coordinated county health department services; legislative intent](#)
- [Florida Statutes 154.01 - County health department delivery system](#)
- [Florida Statutes 154.011 - Primary care services](#)
- [Florida Statutes 154.02 - County Health Department Trust Fund](#)

- [Florida Statutes 154.03 - Cooperation with Department of Health and United States Government](#)

Missouri

- [Missouri Laws > Chapter 192 - Department of Health and Senior Services](#)

New York

- [New York Laws > Public Health > Article 2 - The Department of Health](#)
- [New York Laws > Public Health > Article 3 - Local Health Organization](#)

Texas

- [Texas Health and Safety Code > Title 2 > Subtitle A - Department of State Health Services](#)
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