

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 3. ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE B. COMMISSIONERS COURT AND COUNTY OFFICERS

CHAPTER 86. CONSTABLE

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 86.001. ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AFTER BOUNDARY CHANGE. A person who has served as the constable of a precinct for 10 or more consecutive years before a change is made in the boundaries of the precinct is not ineligible for reelection in the precinct because of residence outside the precinct if the constable's residence is within the boundaries of the precinct as they existed before the change.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 86.002. OATH; BOND. (a) Before entering on the duties of office, a person who is elected to the office of constable must execute a bond with two or more good and sufficient sureties or with a solvent surety company authorized to do business in this state. The bond must be payable to the governor and the governor's successors in office and conditioned that the constable will faithfully perform the duties imposed by law. The bond must be approved by the commissioners court of the county. The commissioners court shall set the bond in an amount of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,500.

(b) A person who is elected constable must also take and sign the constitutional oath of office. The oath shall be endorsed on the bond, together with the certificate of the officer who administers the oath. The bond and oath must be deposited and recorded in the office of the clerk of the county court.

(c) The bond is not void on the first recovery but may be sued on from time to time in the name of an injured party until the whole amount of the bond is recovered.

(d) A person who is elected or appointed to the office of constable and who has given the necessary bond and taken the oath of office may immediately perform the duties of the office. The acts of the constable are as valid in law as if the constable were commissioned.

(e) Repealed by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 683, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 28, 1995.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 683, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 28, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [1094](#), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 86.0021. QUALIFICATIONS; REMOVAL. (a) A person is not eligible to serve as constable unless:

(1) the person is eligible to be licensed under Sections 1701.309 and 1701.312, Occupations Code, and:

(A) has at least an associate's degree conferred by an institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

(B) is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(C) is an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investigator who holds a certificate of proficiency issued under Section 1701.357, Occupations Code; or

(2) the person is an active or inactive licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

(b) On or before the 270th day after the date a constable takes office, the constable shall provide, to the commissioners court of the county in which the constable serves, evidence that the constable has been issued a permanent peace officer license under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code. A constable who fails to provide evidence of licensure under this subsection or who fails to maintain a permanent license while serving in office forfeits the office and is subject to removal in a quo warranto proceeding under Chapter 66, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(c) The license requirement of Subsection (b) supersedes the license requirement of Section 1701.302, Occupations Code.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 884, Sec. 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1998. Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 877, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 30, 1999; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 14.821, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [954](#), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 86.003. NEW BOND; REMOVAL. (a) If any of the sureties of a constable dies, permanently moves from this state, becomes insolvent, or is released from liability as provided by law or if the commissioners court determines that the bond of the constable is insufficient, the court shall issue a citation that requires the constable to appear at a time set in the citation, after the 10th day but on or before the 30th day after the date the citation is issued, in order to execute a new bond with good and sufficient surety.

(b) If the constable neglects or refuses to appear to execute the bond at the designated time, the constable shall cease to perform the duties of the office and shall be removed from office by the judge of the district court in the manner provided by law for the removal of county officers.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

SUBCHAPTER B. DEPUTIES

**Sec. 86.011. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CONSTABLE.** (a) An elected constable who desires to appoint a deputy must apply in writing to the commissioners court of the county and show that it is necessary to appoint a deputy in order to properly handle the business of the constable's office that originates in the constable's precinct. The application must state the name of the proposed deputy. The commissioners court shall approve and confirm the appointment of the deputy only if the commissioners court determines that the constable needs a deputy to handle the business originating in the precinct.

(b) Each deputy constable must qualify in the manner provided for deputy sheriffs.

(c) The constable is responsible for the official acts of each deputy of the constable. The constable may require a deputy to post a bond or security. A constable may exercise any remedy against a deputy or the deputy's surety that a person may exercise against the constable or the constable's surety.

(d) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) serves as a deputy constable and the person has not been appointed as provided by Subsection (a); or

(2) is a constable and issues a deputyship without the consent and approval of the commissioners court.

(e) An offense under Subsection (d) is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.