

**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.

Sec. 86.012. RESERVE DEPUTY CONSTABLES. (a) The

commissioners court of a county may authorize a constable of the county to appoint reserve deputy constables. The commissioners court may limit the number of reserve deputy constables that a constable may appoint.

(b) A reserve deputy constable serves at the discretion of the constable and may be called into service at any time that the constable considers it necessary to have additional officers to preserve the peace and enforce the law. The constable may authorize a reserve deputy constable who is a peace officer as described by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, to carry a weapon or act as a peace officer at all times, regardless of whether the reserve deputy constable is engaged in the actual discharge of official duties, or may limit the authority of the reserve deputy constable to carry a weapon or act as a peace officer to only those times during which the reserve deputy constable is engaged in the actual discharge of official duties. A reserve deputy constable who is not a peace officer as described by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, may act as a peace officer only during the actual discharge of official duties. A reserve deputy constable, regardless of whether the reserve deputy constable is a peace officer as described by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, is not:

(1) eligible for participation in any program provided by the county that is normally considered a financial benefit of full-time employment or for any pension fund created by statute for the benefit of fulltime paid peace officers; or

(2) exempt from Chapter 1702, Occupations Code.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-1), a reserve deputy constable must take the official oath and must execute a bond in the amount of \$2,000, payable to the constable. The oath and bond must be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the appointment is made. The oath and bond must be given before the reserve deputy constable's entry on duty and simultaneously with the officer's appointment.

(c-1) If a constable appoints more than one reserve deputy constable, the constable may execute a blanket surety bond to cover the reserve deputy constables. Instead of a reserve deputy constable executing an individual bond under Subsection (c) or the constable executing a blanket surety bond, the county may self-insure against losses that would have been covered by the bond.

(d) While actively engaged in an assigned duty at the call of the constable, a reserve deputy constable is vested with the same rights, privileges, and duties of any other peace officer in this state.

(e) The county and the constable do not incur any liability by reason of the appointment of a reserve deputy constable if the reserve deputy constable incurs a personal injury while serving in that capacity.

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

Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 90, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1420, Sec. 14.822, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 261, Sec. 1, eff. June  
17, 2011.