

Adopting Amendments by Ordinance

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal 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 municipal 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 MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: MTAS-1773

If a city decides to adopt a specific amendment, T.C.A. provides two alternate methods. The first method is straightforward. The governing body of the city passes an ordinance adopting the published amendments by reference. ^[16] As with complete building codes adopted by reference, amendments to building codes must be on file in the recorder's office at least 15 days before the ordinance incorporating them by reference is adopted. ^[17] If the ordinance adopting the building code is in the city's municipal code, the ordinance adopting the amendment should be written to amend the municipal code section and not the original ordinance. See Sample 4, "Ordinance incorporating amendments to building codes—amending a municipal code." ^[1] If the ordinance adopting the building code is not in a municipal code, the ordinance should be written to amend the ordinance that adopted the building code. See Sample 5, "Ordinance incorporating amendments to building codes—amending an existing ordinance." ^[2]

[16] T.C.A. § 6-54-503.

[17] T.C.A. § 6-54-503(b).

Links:

[1] <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/sample-ordinance-incorporating-amendments-municipal-code>

[2] <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/sample-ordinance-incorporating-amendments-ordinance>

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Source URL (retrieved on 10/21/2020 - 4:37am): <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/adopting-amendments-ordinance>

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