

Jim Crow Laws: Tennessee

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Enacted 20 Jim Crow laws between 1866 and 1955, including six school, four miscegenation, three railroad, one streetcar, and two public accommodation statutes. The one law barring school segregation, passed in 1869, giving all citizens the right to attend the University of Tennessee came with a qualification. Instructional facilities for persons of color would be separated from those used for white students. As of 1954, segregation laws for miscegenation, transportation and public accommodation were still in effect.

1866: Education [Statute]

Separate schools required for white and black children

1869: Barred school segregation [Statute]

While no citizen of Tennessee could be excluded from attending the University of Tennessee on account of his race or color, "the accommodation and instruction of persons of color shall be separate from those for white persons."

1870: Miscegenation [Constitution]

Intermarriage prohibited between white persons and Negroes, or descendants of Negro ancestors to the third generation.

1870: Miscegenation [Statute]

Penalty for intermarriage between whites and blacks was labeled a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary from one to five years.

1870: Education [Statute]

Schools for white and colored children to be kept separate.

1873: Education [Statute]

"White and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school, but in separate schools under the same general regulations as to management, usefulness and efficiency."

1875: Public accommodations [Statute]

Hotel keepers, carriers of passengers and keepers of places of amusement have the right to control access and exclude persons as "that of any private person over his private house."

1881: Railroads [Statute]

Railroad companies required to furnish separate cars for colored passengers who pay first-class rates. Cars to be kept in good repair, and subject to the same rules governing other first-class cars for preventing smoking and obscene language. Penalty: If companies fail to enforce the law required to pay a forfeit of \$100, half to be paid to the person suing, the other half to be paid to the state's school fund.

1882: Railroads [Statute]

1881 law amended to state that railroads required to supply first-class passenger cars to all persons paying first-class rates. Penalty: \$300 fine payable to the public school fund.

1885: Public accommodations [Statute]

All well-behaved persons to be admitted to theaters, parks, shows, or other public amusements, but also declared that proprietors had the right to create separate accommodations for whites and Negroes.

1891: Railroads [Statute]

Railways to provide equal but separate accommodations for the white and colored races. Penalty: Railroad companies that failed to comply with law guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fines from \$100 to \$500. Conductors could be fined from \$25 to \$50.

1901: Education [Statute]

Unlawful for any school or college to permit white and colored persons to attend the same school. Penalty: \$50 fine, or imprisonment from 30 days to six months, or both.

1905: Streetcars [Statute]

All street cars required to designate a portion of each car for white passengers and also for colored passengers. Required signs to be posted. Special cars could be run for one race exclusively. Penalty: Streetcar companies could be fined \$25 for each offense. Passengers who refused to take the proper seat could be fined \$25.

1925: Education [Statute]

Separate elementary and high schools to be maintained for white and Negro children.

1932: Race classification [State Code]

Classified "Negro" as any person with any Negro blood.

1932: Miscegenation [State Code]

Miscegenation declared a felony.

1932: Education [State Code]

Required racially segregated high schools.

1953: Voting rights protected [Constitution]

Repealed poll tax statute.

1955: Public carriers [State Code]

Public carriers to be segregated.

1955: Employment [State Code]

Separate washrooms in mines required.

1955: Health Care [State Code]

Separate buildings for black and white patients in hospitals for the insane.

1955: Miscegenation [State Code]

Prohibited marriage or living together as man and wife between racially mixed persons. Penalty: One to five years imprisonment in county jail, or fine.