at the end of any calendar year whenever a majority of the resident landowners therein shall sign a petition directed to the members of the county legislative delegation of the county wherein it is located requesting that the district be abolished, if public notice be given that the petition is to be circulated by three weeks’ publication in some newspaper published in the county and by posting notices thereof in at least three public places within the district. Upon receipt of any such petition the county legislative delegation may pass a resolution directed to the clerk of court and to the county auditor, declaring the district abolished and all the rights and duties thereunder at an end. (1952 Code § 53-311; 1948 (45) 1790.)

§ 53-312. Purpose and construction.—The purpose of this chapter is to provide adequate police protection for unincorporated villages, towns and thickly populated areas outside of the limits of incorporated municipalities, and this chapter shall be liberally construed and interpreted to carry into effect such purpose. (1952 Code § 53-312; 1948 (45) 1790.)

§ 53-313. Chapter cumulative.—The rights, privileges and methods provided for in this chapter for the creation of special districts and the appointment of special deputy sheriffs are cumulative to all other ways and methods provided by law in this State. (1952 Code § 53-313; 1948 (45) 1790.)

CHAPTER 6.
RURAL AND OTHER COUNTY POLICE.

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Article 12.
Greenwood County Rural Police System.
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53-551. Horry County police commission created; members; terms; vacancies; officers; quorum.
53-552. Meetings of commission.
53-553. Powers of commission generally.
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53-557. Examinations and educational qualifications.
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53-601. Appointment and removal; qualifications.
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53-611. Appointment, qualifications, term and removal.
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Article 16.
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53-641. Number, appointment, qualification and term.
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53-645. Location and direction of officers.
53-646. Rural police and detectives have same powers; jailers or night watchmen.
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Article 18.
Union County Rural Police.
53-691. Appointment and control.

Article 19.
York County Police Department.
53-701. Department created; duties.
53-702. Sheriff to be head of department; offices and stations.
53-703. Employment, supervision and compensation of policemen and other personnel.
53-704. Lieutenant of police; employment; duties.
53-705. Powers of policemen and personnel; bonds.
53-706. Sheriff may employ and discharge policemen or other employees.
53-707. Funds for administration of article.
county policemen. (1952 Code § 53-533; 1942 Code § 3797-6; 1932 Code § 3803; 1928 (35) 1870.)

§ 53-534. Service of warrants from magistrates' courts but not civil papers.—Such county police shall serve, without additional pay, all criminal warrants and processes of the magistrates of the county, but shall not be permitted to serve any civil papers. (1952 Code § 53-534; 1942 Code § 3797-6; 1932 Code § 3803; 1928 (35) 1870.)

ARTICLE 12.

Greenwood County Rural Police System.

§ 53-541. Establishment.—A rural police system is hereby established in Greenwood County, composed of two county policemen to be appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the sheriff of the county. (1952 Code § 53-541; 1942 Code § 3799; 1932 Code § 3804-A; 1923 (33) 692.)

ARTICLE 13.

Horry County Police.

§ 53-551. Horry County police commission created; members; terms; vacancies; officers; quorum.—There is hereby created the Horry County police commission, which shall be composed of six reputable citizens of the county. The members shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of a majority of the county legislative delegation, including the Senator, for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified, except that of the members first appointed, two shall be appointed for two years, two shall be appointed for three years and two shall be appointed for four years. The members of the commission shall be eligible for reappointment and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointments for the unexpired portion of the term. The commission shall elect its own chairman and secretary from among its members, but the chairman shall not exercise his right to vote except in case of a tie vote. The chairman shall serve for a period of two years and shall not be eligible to succeed himself. For the transaction of business it shall be necessary to have a quorum of four members. (1959 (51) 18.)

Editor's note.—For former provisions as to Horry County rural policemen, see 1952 Code §§ 53-551 to 53-557.

§ 53-552. Meetings of commission.—The county police commission shall meet at ten o'clock on the first Monday of each month in the Horry County jail to make plans for future activities, to discuss activities of the county police during the previous month, to hear complaints from any citizen of the county, and to take up any other matters dealing with the business of law enforcement in the county. The time for such
monthly meeting may be changed by the commission whenever it is deemed necessary. A record shall be kept of all activities of the monthly meetings of the commission which shall be open to the public, except records of how the members of the board voted and matters of an executive nature. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. The commission shall, when deemed necessary, upon the majority vote of its members, call special meetings for the purpose of taking up matters pertaining to law enforcement in the county. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-553. Powers of commission generally.—The commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction of the jail and shall appoint a chief of county police for the county and eight county policemen. The commission may hire a secretary or such other personnel as it deems necessary and shall make all rules and regulations for governing the county police and shall be the final authority upon all matters relative to the conduct of such policemen. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-554. Employment of jailer and other personnel.—The commission shall employ the jailer, assistant jailer, secretary and all other personnel necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of this article and for the orderly process of law enforcement and the upkeep and maintenance of the county jail. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-555. Terms of county police; removal; investigation of complaints.—The terms of the county police, including the chief, shall be at the pleasure of the commission, and the commission shall have the exclusive power to remove any county policeman, including the chief, but such policeman shall first be allowed a hearing before the commission prior to his removal; provided, however, that such county policeman may be suspended by the commission pending such hearing. The commission shall investigate promptly any complaint made against any policeman for neglect of duty or for misuse of power. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-556. Qualifications of chief and policemen generally; equipment; bond.—The chief and all of the county policemen appointed by the county police commission shall be bona fide residents of the county and shall be able-bodied men, of good habits, not addicted to the use of alcoholic liquors or drugs and physically able to perform the duties of county policemen. Each of such policemen, including the chief, shall be required to provide himself with a suitable automobile, firearms and other equipment to perform properly his duties. Each of such policemen shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, enter into a bond, the surety to be approved by and filed with the clerk of court, payable to the county, in the sum of two thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties and for such damages as may be sustained by reason of his malfeasance in office or abusing his authority. (1959 (51) 18.)
§ 53-557. Examinations and educational qualifications.—The commission may require a written examination with each application for employment, but in every event no applicant shall be employed without having sufficient education to know and understand the duties of his office, and he shall be examined as to a legible handwriting for the purpose of maintaining permanent records of arrests and returns of civil process. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-558. Oath.—Each of such policemen, before receiving his commission, shall, in addition to the oath of office required by law, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, to wit: “I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that during my term of office as policeman I will study the act creating my office and prescribing my duties, will endeavor to inform myself of the criminal law of this State, both statutory and common law, pertaining to my duties, will be alert and vigilant to enforce it and to detect and bring to punishment every violation of it within my county, will conduct myself at all times with due consideration to all persons and will not impose upon the weak or ignorant. So help me, God.” (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-559. Training course.—The commission shall designate a police training course for all county policemen, including the chief, and if practicable such course shall have been completed within the first six months of employment. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-560. Chief and policemen not to engage in politics.—No county policeman, including the chief of police, shall take part in any political activity or issue, and upon a proper showing to the commission of such political activity, such county policeman shall be removed from his office, and no county policeman shall be allowed to remain in office after announcing his candidacy for any political office. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-561. Duties of chief generally.—The chief of county police, in addition to his regular duties as a county policeman, shall have full command and authority over the regular county policemen appointed under the authority of this article and shall have the right, authority and duty of giving orders and directions to the county policemen in the performance of their duties. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-562. Sale of confiscated property.—The chief of county policemen shall sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash any property confiscated by any county policeman in Horry County under the laws of this State. Any such auction sale shall be advertised once in some newspaper in the county and the proceeds derived from such sale shall be forthwith turned over to the county treasurer to be deposited in the general funds of the county. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-563. Where and when county police to patrol, etc.—The county police shall patrol, police and work in such places, points and sections
§ 53-564. Powers of policemen; posse comitatus.—All of the county policemen shall have, over the entire county, the same rights, powers and authority as sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and constables to make arrests for violation of the criminal laws of this State. The county policemen are authorized to serve summons and complaints, to seize property and serve warrants of attachment, and to seize chattels and serve papers in action of claim and delivery, and the magistrates of the county may issue warrants on Sundays as well as on week days, irrespective of what offense is charged. The county policemen may summon a posse comitatus to assist in enforcing the law, and any citizen who shall fail to respond or render assistance when so summoned shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty days or a fine of not more than one hundred dollars. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-565. County policemen to work in conjunction with magistrates; policies of law enforcement.—The county policemen shall be assigned to work in conjunction with a magistrate, and each shall have the duty, in addition to his regular duties, of serving all criminal and civil process issued out of the magistrate’s office; provided, that the chief of county police may temporarily assign any of the county policemen to carry out duties assigned by any other magistrate, where the occasion may arise, and policies of law enforcement shall be in the discretion of the chief of county police pending a subsequent meeting of the commission, where such policies may be affirmed or repudiated. (1959 (51) 18.)

§ 53-566. Reports of chief and policemen.—Each of such county policemen shall weekly make a written report to the chief of county police of all his acts and doings, including all arrests, fines or bonds taken and places visited and any other information requested by the chief of county police. The chief of county police shall make a monthly written report to the commission and the county legislative delegation concerning the activities of the rural policemen. (1959 (51) 18.)

ARTICLE 14.

Marion County Policemen.

§ 53-601. Appointment and removal; qualifications.—The Governor shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Marion County legislative delegation or a majority thereof, one or more county policemen to hold office for one year from the date of appointment, unless at any time sooner removed by the governing body of the county, such removal to be, however, upon the approval of a majority of the county legislative delegation. Such policemen shall be able-bodied men of good habits, not