

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2020-100

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Dennis

**Date of Introduction:** January 28, 2020

**Committee(s) of Reference:** F, R

**Date of Analysis:** January 30, 2020

**Type of Action:** City Charter amendment; referendum authorization

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends City Charter Article 4 – Division of Powers – and Article 21 - JEA – to provide that the JEA board of directors shall be comprised of 4 members appointed by the City Council President and 3 members appointed by the Mayor, all of whom shall be confirmed by the City Council. Of the 4 members appointed by the Council President, one member shall be appointed through an open application process, with preference given to applicants who may be a former employee of JEA (including retired) or may be a person recommended by an employee, union or group of current or former JEA employees. The bill provides that each appointee to the JEA board must be a resident and elector of the city for at least five consecutive years (rather than the current 6 consecutive months) prior to such member's appointment. It provides that the 4 members appointed by the Council President may be removed by the City Council at any time with or without cause, but such removal must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the council. The bill authorizes a voter referendum to approve these Charter amendments to be held on November 3, 2020 in conjunction with the general election. It provides that, should the voters approve these amendments at the November election, the Mayor should identify 3 incumbent board members to serve out the remainder of their terms as mayoral appointees. The remaining 4 members would be replaced upon appointment of successors by the City Council.

**Background Information:** These proposed amendments derive from the recent controversies involving JEA and a perception among Council members that the City Council needs the authority to have more direct influence over the composition of the JEA board.

**Policy Impact Area:** JEA operations

**Fiscal Impact:** Anticipated to be minimal for the addition of a referendum question on the November 2020 general election ballot.

**Analyst:** Clements