

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137



117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2025-63

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: January 28, 2025

Committee(s) of Reference: R, F

Date of Analysis: January 30, 2025

Type of Action: Authorization to execute economic development agreement; authorization of Targeted Industry Employment Grant; designation of oversight agency; waiver of Public Investment Policy; request for fast-track approval on two readings

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes execution of an economic development agreement between the City and Eckart LLC for the location of a new regional product distribution center in Jacksonville. It designates the Office of Economic Development as the City's oversight agency for the incentive and waives the Public Investment Policy to authorize the award of a Local Targeted Industry Employment Grant. Fast-track approval on two readings is requested.

NOTE: While the bill contains a waiver to permit the award of a Local Targeted Industry Employment Grant, it does not contain language actually making the grant award. An amendment in committee may be necessary. The Fact Sheet for the legislation puts the amount of the grant at \$1,500 per job for 45 jobs or a maximum of \$67,500 payable over 4 years.

Background Information: Eckart, LLC is a distributor of electrical, plumbing and HVAC equipment and supplies seeking to establish a regional distribution facility in Jacksonville to serve the Southeast United States. The company plans to lease a vacant 150,000 SF warehouse located at 5400 W 12th Street, which is within a Level 1 Economically Distressed Area in the Northwest area of Jacksonville. The building, constructed in 1986, is situated on a 7.3-acre tract, zoned Light Industrial. Eckart is a targeted industry business within the Logistics and Distribution category, paying above average wages. The company proposes to create at least 45 new full-time jobs within 36 months after taking occupancy of the building. The average wage of the jobs being created is \$79,960 plus benefits, which is 21% above the \$65,961 Duval County average wage. The company estimates a private capital investment of \$1,000,000 within the first 24 months of occupancy - \$500,000 in year one and an additional \$500,000 in year two. The project has a positive estimated ROI of 2.13: 1, for the City of Jacksonville

Policy Impact Area: Economic development

Fiscal Impact: The bill title states that a Local Targeted Industry Employment Grant of up to \$67,500 (\$1500 for each job created)

Analyst: Clements