

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2026-0074

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Members Peluso and Boylan

**Date of Introduction:** January 27, 2026

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

**Date of Analysis:** January 29, 2026

**Type of Action:** Urge the Florida Legislature to pass House Bill 981 and Senate Bill 1066; request one cycle emergency passage

**Bill Summary:** This resolution urges the Florida Legislature to pass House Bill 981 and Senate Bill 1066, also known as the “Northeast Florida Rivers, Springs, and Community Investment Act,” to address restoration of the Ocklawaha River and creation of recreational and economic development opportunities in the surrounding counties. It also directs Legislative Services to transmit copies of the resolution, once adopted, to the members of the Duval County Legislative Delegation, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor of the State of Florida. The bill requests one cycle emergency passage

**Background Information:** The Ocklawaha River is the primary tributary for the St. Johns River and has suffered severe ecological damage in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from impoundment, fertilizer runoff, dredging, pollution, and rerouting, all of which have directly impacted recreational and economic development in the surrounding counties. The Northeast Florida Rivers, Springs, and Community Investment Act creates a new Section 373.464, *Florida Statutes*, to address restoration of the Ocklawaha River and creation of recreational and economic development opportunities in the surrounding areas.

Specifically, the Act, in part, requires:

1. Development of a project plan for the restoration of the Ocklawaha River
2. Development of an outdoor recreation plan that identifies and implements projects for enhanced and expanded river and springs access for recreational activities
3. Establishment of a Northeast Florida River and Springs Recreation and Economic Development Advisory Council to make recommendations for projects to be included in the outdoor recreation plan, in addition to other responsibilities related to recreational and economic development in the counties surrounding the River

**Policy Impact Area:** Natural resource management, St. Johns River and tributaries, recreation and economic development

**Fiscal Impact:** No cost to the City

**Analyst:** Russell