

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2025-0695

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Carrico

Date of Introduction: September 9, 2025

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: September 5, 2025

Type of Action: Express support for Local Bill J-1; provide the state J-Bill process and responsibilities of the local proponent; direct the Duval Delegation Coordinator to forward to Civic Plus a copy of any special act of the state legislature that effectuates this request.

Bill Summary: This resolution expresses the City Council's support for Local Bill J-1, which amends Chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, to amend Section 7.01 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville. This would authorize the School Board of Duval County, Florida, to employ a general counsel who shall be independent from the City's Office of General Counsel and shall not be subject to opinions, binding or otherwise, of the City's General Counsel. The bill also provides the state J-Bill process and outlines the responsibilities of the local proponent, including but not limited to advertising and public hearing requirements. Finally, it directs the Duval Delegation Coordinator to Forward to Civic Plus a copy of any Special Act of the State Legislature that affects the amendment to the City Charter so that, if approved, it can be catalogued in Article 7, Part A – Charter Laws, of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville.

Background Information: Article 7 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville establishes the City's Office of General Counsel, which has the responsibility for furnishing legal services to the City and its independent agencies. Section 7.02, *City Charter*, provides that the head of the Office of General Counsel shall serve as the chief legal officer for the entire consolidated government, including its independent agencies. The School Board of Duval County, Florida, serves as the governing body for the School District of Duval County, Florida, and is an independent agency of the Consolidated Government of the City of Jacksonville. It is the only independent agency within the Consolidated Government whose budget is not subject to the oversight, review, or approval of the City Council.

On August 7, 2025, the School Board adopted Resolution 2026-04, proposing revisions to Section 7.01, *City Charter*. This resolution expressed the desire to authorize the School Board to employ a general counsel who is independent from the City's Office of General Counsel and who would not be subject to the opinions of the City's General Counsel, binding or otherwise. The School Board cited the Final Order rendered in *School Board of Duval County et al. v. City of Jacksonville* as evidence of the School Board's greater level of independence within the Consolidated Government to support its pursuit of a Charter amendment to authorize its employment of separate legal counsel. If authorized, the School Board's general counsel would continue to work with the Office of General Counsel to assign duties and matters to the Office on behalf of the School Board and the Duval County School District.

Policy Impact Area: Duval County School Board, Office of General Counsel

Fiscal Impact: No cost to City.

Analyst: Russell