

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-405

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

Date of Introduction: May 24, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: May 26, 2022

Type of Action: Authorizing execution of amendments to economic development agreements; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes a global amendment to all existing economic development agreements between the City and a list of incentive recipient companies to provide that employees working remotely and not physically present at a company facility will still qualify as “new employees” for purposes of calculating job-based incentives, provided those employees reside within the 5-county Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jacksonville, Clay County, St. Johns County, Nassau County and Baker County) and their job is based, but not necessarily located, at the project site. The Office of Economic Development is designated as the City’s oversight agency for monitoring the agreements.

Background Information: In 2021 the City Council, in response to the workplace dislocations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, enacted Ordinance 2021-449-E that amended numerous existing economic development agreements to permit companies to receive credit toward their incentives for new job creation for employees who work remotely from the physical location of the project. That policy was in effect for calendar years 2020 and 2021. Because of the continuing effects of the COVID pandemic and the continuance of substantial amounts of remote work, the City has been requested by companies to extend that policy throughout the remainder of the terms of the covered economic development agreements. This global amendment provides that all other terms and conditions of the Agreement remaining unchanged and requires the companies to provide any and all records and back-up documentation reasonably requested by the City in order to verify the residency of the companies’ employees and the location of the new jobs. The new Global Agreement would apply to 50 incentive agreements (some companies have multiple agreements, e.g. Amazon, Johnson & Johnson, and UPS).

Policy Impact Area: Economic development incentive qualifications

Fiscal Impact: Permits the companies to continue receiving the job creation incentives for remote workers not actually on-site at the facilities.

Analyst: Clements