

1 Introduced by Council Member Carrico:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2025-695-D**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
6 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BILL J-1, TO BE CONSIDERED BY
7 THE DUVAL COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, WHICH
8 WOULD AMEND CHAPTER 92-341, LAWS OF FLORIDA, AS
9 AMENDED, BY AMENDING SECTION 7.01, CHARTER OF
10 THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, TO AUTHORIZE THE DUVAL
11 COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TO EMPLOY A GENERAL COUNSEL
12 WHO SHALL BE INDEPENDENT OF THE CITY'S OFFICE OF
13 GENERAL COUNSEL AND WHO SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO
14 THE OPINION, BINDING OR OTHERWISE, OF THE
15 GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE;
16 PROVIDING THE STATE J-BILL PROCESS AND
17 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL PROPONENT;
18 DIRECTING THE DUVAL DELEGATION COORDINATOR TO
19 FORWARD TO CIVIC PLUS A COPY OF ANY SPECIAL ACT
20 OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE THAT WOULD EFFECTUATE
21 THIS REQUEST; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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23 **WHEREAS**, Article 7 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville
24 (the "City Charter") establishes the City's Office of General Counsel
25 which has the responsibility for furnishing legal services to the
26 City and its independent agencies; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Section 7.02 (General counsel), *City Charter*, provides
28 that the head of the Office of General Counsel shall be the General
29 Counsel who serves as the chief legal officer for the entire
30 consolidated government, including its independent agencies; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the School Board of Duval County, Florida (the "School

1 Board"), consists of seven elected officials who serve as the
2 governing body for the School District of Duval County, Florida, an
3 independent agency of the Consolidated Government of the City of
4 Jacksonville; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the School Board is the only independent agency within
6 the Consolidated Government of the City of Jacksonville whose budget
7 is not subject to the oversight, review or approval of the City
8 Council; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on August 7, 2025, the School Board adopted Resolution
10 2026-04, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**, proposing
11 revisions to Section 7.01, *City Charter*, to authorize the School
12 Board to employ a general counsel who is independent from the City's
13 Office of General Counsel and who would not be subject to the opinion
14 of the City's General Counsel, binding or otherwise; and

15 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 2026-04, the School Board cited
16 the Final Order rendered in the case of *School Board of Duval County,*
17 *et al. v. City of Jacksonville*, Case No. 2019-CA-6561 (Fourth Judicial
18 Circuit, Duval County, Florida) wherein the Circuit Court ruled that:
19 (1) the School Board was "established and operated as [a]
20 constitutional, independent county governmental entit[y]," (2)
21 "[c]onsolidated government in Jacksonville has not changed the status
22 of the Duval County School Board under Florida Law," (3) the School
23 Board has "maintain[ed] its fundamental independence," and (4) the
24 School Board had a right to independent legal counsel in that court
25 proceeding, as evidence of the School Board's greater level of
26 independence within the Consolidated Government to support its
27 pursuit of a Charter amendment to authorize its employment of legal
28 counsel that is separate from the Office of General Counsel as
29 described herein; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the School Board's general counsel, if authorized,
31 would continue to work with the Office of General Counsel to assign

1 duties and matters to the Office of General Counsel on behalf of the
2 School Board and the Duval County School District; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby expresses its support for Local
4 Bill J-1 to effectuate the proposed change to the City Charter; now
5 therefore

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

7 **Section 1. Support of Local Bill J-1.** The Council hereby
8 expresses its support for Local Bill J-1 to be considered by the
9 Duval County Legislative Delegation for the 2026 State Legislative
10 Session. Said Local Bill J-1 would amend Chapter 92-341, Laws of
11 Florida, as amended, to amend Section 7.01, Charter of the City of
12 Jacksonville (the "City Charter"), to authorize the School Board of
13 Duval County, Florida, to employ a general counsel who shall be
14 independent from the City's Office of General Counsel and who shall
15 not be subject to the opinion, binding or otherwise, of the General
16 Counsel of the City of Jacksonville. A true and correct copy of said
17 Local Bill J-1 is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and is incorporated
18 herein by this reference.

19 **Section 2. State J-bill Process and Responsibilities of**
20 **Local Proponent.** The House of Representatives sponsor will deliver
21 the Local Bill J-2 to House Bill Drafting. The local proponent will
22 be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Bill
23 Filing Manual including but not limited to advertising and public
24 hearing requirements. The Duval Delegation Local Bill hearing will
25 occur on October 22, 2025, in the City Council Chamber.

26 **Section 3. Directing the Duval Delegation Coordinator to**
27 **Forward to Civic Plus a Copy of Any Special Act of the State**
28 **Legislature Which Effectuates this Request.** The Duval Delegation
29 Coordinator is hereby directed to forward to Civic Plus, formerly
30 known as "Municode," a copy of any Special Act of the State
31 Legislature that effectuates the amendment to the City Charter of the

1 City of Jacksonville proposed herein so that, if approved, the
2 amendment can be catalogued in Article 7 (Office of General Counsel),
3 Part A - Charter Laws, of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville
4 Florida.

5 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
6 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
7 without the Mayor's signature.

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9 Form Approved:

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11 /s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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