

1 Introduced by Council Members Priestly Jackson, Clark-Murray,
2 Carlucci, Morgan, DeFoor and Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council
3 Members Becton, Bowman, Carrico, Cumber, Diamond, Ferraro, Freeman,
4 Gaffney, Jr., Howland, Newby, Pittman, Salem and White and twice
5 amended on the Floor of Council:
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8 **RESOLUTION 2023-219-A**

9 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF
10 HOUSE BILL 1331 AND SENATE BILL 1380 WHICH WOULD
11 PROVIDE FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED CAP ON THE TRANSFERS
12 OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, WATER, AND
13 WASTEWATER UTILITY REVENUES TO A MUNICIPAL
14 GENERAL FUND TO FINANCE GENERAL GOVERNMENT
15 FUNCTIONS; DIRECTING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
16 CIRCULATE THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA
17 LEGISLATURE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
18 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
19

20 **WHEREAS**, JEA is an independent authority within the
21 consolidated City of Jacksonville that is authorized to own, manage,
22 and operate a utilities system that currently includes electric,
23 water, wastewater, and district energy services; and

24 **WHEREAS**, a number of municipal utilities throughout the state
25 contribute to their respective municipal general funds as a means to
26 support the operations of government, recognizing that such
27 contributions allow the ratepayers to realize a secondary but
28 meaningful benefit from funds paid for utility services; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the unique, symbiotic relationship
30 between the City and JEA, JEA makes an annual contribution to the
31 City's general fund in support of general governmental functions and

1 operations of the consolidated City of Jacksonville, including public
2 safety and emergency services, parks and recreation programming and
3 services, library services, local services and programs designed to
4 mitigate costs and utility disruptions to customers who are neighbors
5 in Jacksonville, and other operational services and expenses that may
6 be paid using general fund dollars; and

7 **WHEREAS,** the JEA contribution to the City's general fund for
8 fiscal year 2022-2023 totaled \$122,424,496 and supported a multitude
9 of programs and services enjoyed by the City's residents and visitors
10 alike; and

11 **WHEREAS,** House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 were introduced
12 at the state level this legislative session and in their current
13 proposed form as of the date of adoption of this Resolution, as
14 substituted in Committee and proposed to be amended, respectively,
15 would allow the state to set a not-to-exceed cap on transfers of
16 municipal electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater utility
17 revenues to a municipal general fund by dictating a limitation on the
18 amount of such general fund contributions; and

19 **WHEREAS,** the Council finds that the potential harm to the City
20 of Jacksonville and JEA is sufficient that the Council should inform
21 the Florida Legislature that it is opposed to House Bill 1331 and
22 Senate Bill 1380 and urges the Florida Legislature to defeat both
23 bills; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1. Declaring the City Council's Strong Opposition**
26 **to House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380.** The City Council strongly
27 opposes and urges the Florida Legislature to defeat passage of House
28 Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 which would, together or individually,
29 provide for a not-to-exceed cap on the transfers of municipal
30 electric, natural gas, water, or wastewater revenues to a municipal
31 general fund to finance general government functions. This action

1 would only serve to further hamstring a local government's ability
2 to effectively utilize its financial resources to provide the programs
3 and services it deems most appropriate to meet the needs of its
4 community.

5 **Section 2. Direction to the Chief of Legislative Services**
6 **Division.** The Chief of Legislative Services Division is hereby
7 directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Florida
8 Legislature, the Duval County Legislative Delegation, the Senate
9 President, and the Speaker of the House.

10 **Section 3. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
11 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
12 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
13 emergency is that these bills are currently moving through the state
14 legislative process and the Council would like to notify the Florida
15 Legislature of its strong opposition to both HB 1331 and SB 1380, in
16 their current proposed form as of the date of adoption of this
17 Resolution, before final action is taken.

18 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
19 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
20 without the Mayor's signature.

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22 Form Approved:

23
24 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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