

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2020-219

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

Date of Introduction: April 14, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: F, R

Date of Analysis: April 16, 2020

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment; Ordinance Code waiver; request for emergency action on introduction

Bill Summary: The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 121 – Police and Firefighters Pension Plan – in Section 121.105 – Pensioner’s rights upon reemployment by the City – to add provisions permitting the re-hiring of retired police officers and firefighters on a temporary basis to deal with a potential staffing shortage that may result from the COVID-19 emergency and the quarantine or non-availability of current duty personnel. The amendment provides that the re-hired retired police officers and firefighters shall serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff and Fire Chief, respectively, and that their employment may continue until 60 days after the expiration of Emergency Executive Proclamation 2020-001 or any extension thereof. It requires that the retired employees seeking to be temporarily re-hired must hold current state certifications. The bill waives the Ordinance Code requirement that an actuarial impact statement must be produced and accompany any proposed change to a local retirement system. Emergency passage of the ordinance on first reading is requested.

Background Information: The City of Jacksonville is currently under a state and local public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the likely continued spread of COVID-19, a significant number of the City’s police officers and fire fighters may be temporarily unable to report to work due to possible COVID-19 exposure or quarantines related to COVID-19. Temporary first responders will need to be hired to prevent a decline in essential public safety services. Training new employees to temporarily serve in such positions would require significant time and resources and would not be practical. However, many retired City police officers and fire fighters possess the necessary skills and training to immediately assist in a temporary capacity. Personnel re-hired under this plan will continue to receive their retirement benefits and will not accrue any additional pension benefits. The waiver of the required actuarial study is requested in order to have this bill enacted as quickly as possible and is permitted pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes and Governor DeSantis’ Executive Order Number 20-52 to help local governments cope with emergency situations as rapidly as possible. Despite the waiver, the City will request an actuarial impact statement and will issue such statement as soon as practicable.

Policy Impact Area: Public safety

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined, depending on the number of re-hired personnel.

Analyst: Clements