

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2019-331

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Members Boyer and Love

**Date of Introduction:** May 15, 2019

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU, LUZ, Waterways Commission

**Date of Analysis:** May 16, 2019

**Type of Action:** Ordinance Code amendments

**Bill Summary:** The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 652 – Floodplain Management Ordinance – in numerous sections to adjust regulations regarding the placement of fill material in a floodplain, requirements for building setbacks from a floodway, and requirements for finished floor elevations in special flood hazard areas. Specific requirements include: the creation of a floodway setback zone of 25 feet on either side of the outer boundary of a regulatory floodway; delineation of floodway setbacks on site plans and construction documents; specifications for fill material placed in a flood hazard area and a requirement for permeability testing of such material; a reduction in the permitted increase in base flood elevation caused by development activities in a riverine flood hazard area from no more than 1 foot to 0 feet; and a requirement that the finished floor elevation of structures in special flood hazard areas shall be 2 feet above the base flood elevation. The bill also changes the authority to hear and grant variances and appeals from the regulations in this chapter from the Subdivision Standards Policy and Advisory Committee (with appeals of SSPAC decisions to the courts) to the Director of the Planning and Development Department (with appeals to the City Council).

**Background Information:** This bill represents the codification of a set of recommendations from the administration's Storm Resiliency and Infrastructure Development Committee after several months of meetings and presentations regarding the City's current regulations, policies and practices regarding stormwater management and other aspects of flooding prevention. The committee, composed of City Council members and representatives of the Mayor's Office, Planning and Development Department, Public Works Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Johns River Water Management District, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, heard a variety of presentations regarding sea level rise, increasing frequency and intensity of rainfall events, state and federal regulations related to stormwater and flooding, and comparisons of Jacksonville's stormwater and floodplain management ordinance and practices with those other Florida jurisdictions.

**Policy Impact Area:** Floodplain management regulations

**Fiscal Impact:** Undetermined; the new regulations should reduce occurrences of structural damage due to flooding and thereby reduce costs related to flooding remediation and recovery.

**Analyst:** Clements