

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



COLLEEN HAMPSEY,
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 630-3403

Bill Type and Number: 2020-673

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Boylan, Newby, Salem, Gaffney, Pittman, Ferraro, Becton, Freeman, DeFoor, Diamond, Dennis, Priestly Jackson, White, Morgan, Wilson and Hazouri

Date of Introduction: October 27, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, R

Date of Analysis: October 28, 2020

Type of Action: Appropriation, Procurement Code exception, designation of oversight agency and emergency passage upon introduction

Bill Summary: This bill is an appropriation of in \$5,300,000 CARES Act funds transferred from the Vystar Small Business Relief program and from contractual services in Testing and Other Health Needs to create a new Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program to assist individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19 who are facing potential eviction or foreclosure. The program will be managed by The Jacksonville Bar Association, Inc. with the exception from Section 126.107(g), Part 1, Chapter 126, *Ordinance Code*, such that procurement is exempted from competitive solicitation because the supplies or services are to be provided by those specifically prescribed within authorizing legislation that appropriates the same. Section 110.112, Part 1, Chapter 110, *Ordinance Code*, is waived to allow for advance payment for the program. Emergency passage is requested as individuals and businesses are facing imminent eviction or foreclosure due to COVID-19 economic harm and CARES Act funding expires December 30, 2020. The Mayor's Office will oversee the program.

Background Information: Eligible individual applicants may qualify for up to \$5,000 for rent/mortgage payments, and businesses may qualify for up to \$10,000 for the same. Eligibility includes: must be at least two months behind in rent or mortgage payments between April 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020; have received a written notice from their Landlord or Mortgagee indicating they will be evicted or a foreclosure action is pending; must have experienced a documented, involuntary loss of income that occurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; Landlord or Mortgagee agrees to withdraw any currently filed eviction or foreclosure action against the Tenants or homeowners residing in the residential rental property; Landlord or Mortgagee agrees to waive all costs, fees and charges incurred as a result of non-payment or partial payment during the impacted months; all Landlords/Mortgagees and all Tenants/Mortgagors of the property in question agree to participate in the program. The Mayor's Office will receive a monthly and a final report from The Jacksonville Bar Association. The Council Auditor will be provided a copy of the final report upon submission to the U.S. Treasury.

Policy Impact Area: Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program – COVID 19

Fiscal Impact: \$5,300,000 as initiated by B.T. 21-021

Analyst: Hampsey