

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2023-256

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Members Howland, Freeman, Newby, Gaffney, Jr., Carrico and White

Date of Introduction: April 11, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: April 13, 2023

Type of Action: Petition to Florida Legislature; direction to Legislative Services Division; request for emergency passage on first reading

Bill Summary: The bill requests the Florida Legislature to either defeat pending House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 regarding limitations on transfers of revenues from municipal electric, water, wastewater and natural gas authorities to their city or county government or to amend the bills to expressly exempt the City of Jacksonville and the JEA from such legislation or, in the alternative, exempt the City and JEA from the not-to-exceed cap on transfer contributions to finance general government operations. The Legislative Services Division is directed to provide copies of the adopted resolution to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and to the Florida Legislature. Emergency passage on first reading is requested in order to get the request in front of the Legislature while the bills are being debated in order to have Jacksonville, as a consolidated city/county government, exempted from the bills' restrictions.

Background Information: The bill's preamble states that JEA's article in the City Charter provides that JEA may operate various utilities "for the benefit of the City of Jacksonville" and notes the special relationship between the City and its utility. It also notes that the pending House and Senate bills do not contain a specific definition of "municipal utility. The bills dictate a limitation on the amount of general fund contributions by setting a not-to-exceed cap on transfers of municipal electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater utility revenues, which may also include fees, taxes, sponsorships, donations, costs, or other financial or in-kind contributions, in whatever form they may take (collectively, "contributions"), to a municipal general fund.

Policy Impact Area: JEA and City finances

Fiscal Impact: The annual JEA contribution provides a sizeable portion of the City's annual revenue (approximately \$122 million in the current budget, or 8.4% of non-departmental revenues). Additionally, JEA provides franchise fee revenue of \$42 million and public service tax revenue of \$95 million, as well as other forms of contributions such as septic tank phase-out funding.

Analyst: Clements