

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 630-1377



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

Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2019-377

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

Date of Introduction: May 28, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: F

Date of Analysis: May 30, 2019

Type of Action: Approval of economic development agreement; QTI commitment; designation of oversight agency; affirmation of compliance with Public Investment Policy; request for fast-track approval

Bill Summary: The bill approves execution of an economic development agreement between the City and Project Liberty (company name temporarily kept confidential) to support the expansion of the company's operations in Jacksonville. It commits the City to funding the local match of a Qualified Targeted Industry grant in an amount not to exceed \$198,000 and provides for oversight of the project by the Office of Economic Development. The project incentives are declared to be compliant with the City's Public Investment Policy and fast-track approval on 2 readings is requested.

Background Information: Project Liberty, a company with a current presence in Jacksonville, is an international information technology company that designs software for large corporations. Jacksonville and several other cities are under consideration as sites for the company's planned expansion. The company proposes to create a minimum of 198 new full-time jobs by the end of 2021 at an average wage of \$69,000 plus benefits. The City commits to a Qualified Targeted Industry local grant match of up to \$198,000 (\$1,000 per job) payable over 6 years, which is a 20% match to the State's 80% commitment of \$792,000 (\$4,000 per job). The Office of Economic Development calculates the incentive's return on investment at 2.03.

Policy Impact Area: Economic development

Fiscal Impact: The City commits to a local QTI match of up to \$198,000.

Analyst: Clements