

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2025-411

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Members Arias, Johnson, and Amaro

Date of Introduction: May 27, 2025

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

Date of Analysis: May 28, 2025

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment

Bill Summary: This bill amends sections of the Ordinance Code regarding the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (JSEB) program. It amends Section 26.205, Part 2, Chapter 26, *Ordinance Code*, to clarify duties of the Office of Equal Business Opportunity-Business Compliance (EBO Office) and remove conflicts with Chapter 126. It also amends Part 6, Chapter 126, *Ordinance Code*, to clarify duties of the JSEB Administrator, increase JSEB program minimum funding to \$750,000 subject to the availability of funding, clarify reporting requirements, clarify parameters of micro-business program, and create a JSEB Prime mentor status providing for up to nine additional years in the program as mentors.

Background Information: In 2004, the City created the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business program to address several concerns that were found to impede the growth of small businesses, including bonding issues, access to capital, training, City procurement barriers, and lack of resources for growth. A Special Committee on JSEB was established on March 17, 2025, to review the program and make improvements and recommendations based on feedback from various program participants, City staff, and community stakeholders. Based on the Committee's review of the program, the City seeks to improve the program to better assist JSEBs in achieving their goals and promoting continued participation.

This bill codifies recommendations from the Special Committee on JSEB to improve the program. First, it amends the duties of the EBO Office. Ordinance 2024-175-E approved a reorganization of the Executive Branch of City government, including moving the EBO Office, which oversees the JSEB program, from the Procurement Division to the Office of Economic Development. However, the Ebo Office duties outlined in Section 26.205, *Ordinance Code*, conflict with parts of Chapter 126, Part 6, *Ordinance Code*, requiring clarification. The bill also makes amendments to the code that: clarify the duties of the JSEB Administrator; increase JSEB program funding to \$750,000 subject to availability of funding, clarify reporting requirements, clarify parameters of the micro-business program, and create JSEB Prime mentor status to provide up to nine additional years in the program for participants as mentors.

Policy Impact Area: Small business, economic development

Fiscal Impact: Increases JSEB funding to \$750,000, subject to available funding.

Analyst: Russell