

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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**Bill Type and Number:** 2022-28

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

**Date of Introduction:** January 11, 2022

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

**Date of Analysis:** January 12, 2022

**Type of Action:** Appropriation, designation of oversight agency and emergency passage upon introduction

**Bill Summary:** This bill is an appropriation of \$493,836 of American Rescue Plan Act pass-through grant funding from the State of Florida, Division of Library and Information Services Amended 11/9/21 for the “Reopen and Reconnect: Filling the Connectivity Gap” program at the Jacksonville Public Library. The grant period commenced on September 3, 2021, and will conclude on September 30, 2022, by which time all Program tasks must be completed. The City of Jacksonville Public Library and the Board of Library Trustees will oversee administration of the grant and the Program. Emergency passage upon introduction is requested to ensure all Program tasks, deliverables and expenditures of funds can be completed prior to the conclusion of the grant period.

**Background Information:** The purpose of this legislation is to provide funds to support the reopening of Duval County’s public libraries by mitigating the “connectivity gap” for library customers without reliable internet access or equipment at home and to allow for continued social distancing and minimization of staff contact within library facilities. The grant funds will be used for Self-Check Solutions and the Reopen and Reconnect Device Lending Program. Self-Check Solutions will serve an estimated 95,771 households and includes the purchase of 16 self-check machines for smaller urban footprint branches (Argyle, Highlands, Maxville, Murray Hill, University Park, and West). The Reopen and Reconnect Device Lending Program will serve an estimated 64,810 households and facilitate and promote digital inclusion through accessible Wi-Fi, internet hot spots and digital resources for users in the City’s five urban library service areas (Eastside, Graham, Main, Brentwood and Westbrook) and at one branch library heavily focused on adult learners (Webb Wesconnett). There are no staff expenditures associated with this program. There will be \$30,624 in annual maintenance costs for the self-check machines and \$31,500 annually for the data plan.

**Policy Impact Area:** Jacksonville Public Library “Reopen and Reconnect: Filling the Connectivity Gap” program

**Fiscal Impact:** Appropriation of \$493,836 as initiated by B.T. 22-037, no City match required

**Analyst:** Hampsey