

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Bill Type and Number: 2019-595

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Carlucci and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Dennis

Date of Introduction: August 13, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: August 12, 2019

Type of Action: Resolution expressing opposition for Local Bill J-1

Bill Summary: This bill expresses opposition to Local Bill J-1, to be considered by the Duval County Legislative Delegation for the 2020 State Legislative Session. Local Bill J-1 would amend Chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, and Section 13.01, Charter of the City of Jacksonville, to provide that members of the Duval County School Board be appointed by the mayor of the City of Jacksonville instead of elected by the voters.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to express City Council's opposition viewpoint to changing the method of selecting school board membership. Currently, the Duval County School Board is comprised of seven elected members who must reside within one of the seven represented districts. As designated by the Florida Legislature, and the City of Jacksonville Charter, the seven members are elected through a nonpartisan district election. If Chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, and Section 13.01, Charter of the City of Jacksonville, are amended then the school board members will be appointed by the Mayor of Jacksonville and approved by City Council. If appointed, the school board members could be removed by the mayor after confirmation.

Duval County School Board members are constitutional officers of Duval County, with the authority to establish a tax rate through the millage rate and a budget which is currently \$1.8 billion of tax payers' funds. According to this resolution, if the Duval County electorate wishes to amend the City Charter and have an appointed school board instead of an elected one, then such measure could be placed on the ballot for the voters to decide. City Council Legislative Services is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Florida, President of the Florida Senate, Speaker of the Florida House and members of the Duval Legislative Delegation.

Policy Impact Area: Duval County School Board Resolution

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City from this Resolution

Analyst: Hampsey