

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-53

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Jacksonville Ethics Commission

Date of Introduction: January 24, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: January 26, 2023

Type of Action: Ethics Code amendment

Bill Summary: The bill amends Section 602.1001 (Ethics Education Program), Chapter 602 (Jacksonville Ethics Code), to allow the City’s Ethics Director to set the time for mandatory ethics training to be completed by elected officials following the certification of their election and to issue a digital “confirmation” of the completion of that training rather than a digital “certificate.”

Background Information: The current language in Section 602.1001, Jacksonville Ethics Code, pertaining to Ethics in Government training, requires that the City Ethics Office perform the training for new elected officials *not less than 45 days* following certification of the election. However, this timeframe is inconsistent with state law which provides that elected officials are subject to state ethics laws upon their election. Likewise, the City Ethics Office is routinely asked and will provide training to elected officials prior to the timeframe listed in the Ethics Code. The bill also deletes the reference to receiving joint approval for the timing of the mandatory training by the General Counsel as the training requirements of Chapter 602 are the responsibility of the Ethics Office alone. Finally, the legislation also removes reference in Section 602.1001 to the digital “certificate” that individuals receive upon completion of ethics training and replaces it with a digital “confirmation” of the completion so that a simple email will suffice as evidence of completed training rather than requiring the creation of a formal certificate.

Policy Impact Area: Ethics training

Fiscal Impact: None

Analyst: Clements