

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-120

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Diamond

Date of Introduction: February 13, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: R, F

Date of Analysis: February 15, 2024

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment; Council Rules amendment; notice of collective bargaining requirement

Bill Summary: The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 116 – Employees and Employee Benefits – in Part 5 – Military Leave – to increase the time during which a City or JEA employee taking a military leave of absence for active, full-time duty (of at least 30 days) will remain on the active payroll from 30 to 90 days. It provides that an employee taking other military leave will remain on the active payroll of the City of Jacksonville or the JEA for a period of up to 30 days following his or her departure for active duty. The amendment changes references in several places from “General Employees or Police and Fire Pension Plans” to reflect the current names of the City’s various retirement plans. It provides that any City or JEA employee (defined as probationary or permanent full-time employees and officials of the City or JEA) who has a minor dependent child or a disabled adult dependent child, and whose spouse is ordered into military service pursuant to U.S.C. Title 10 for a period of at least 30 days, shall be granted 40 hours of paid special leave each calendar year to care for the dependent(s) during the deployment. The bill notes that these leave provisions are subject to collective bargaining.

The bill amends Council Rule 2.202 – Attendance; Voting – in Chapter 2 – Committees – to provide that any council member who is ordered into military service pursuant to state or federal law, and who provides notice to the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon receiving such order, shall be excused from all committee meetings during the period of such military service and shall not be required to provide any additional notice of such absence. It amends Council Rule 4.501 – Absences from Meetings – in Chapter 4 – Procedures – to make the same provision for a single notice of absence from all council meetings during the period of the military service.

Background Information: The changes are intended to provide additional support for and recognition of City and JEA employees who serve in the military and the important role they serve in military readiness and national defense. The Council Rules amendment is meant to simplify the process of making formal notification of excused meeting absences for extended periods of time.

Policy Impact Area: Employee military service leave

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined

Analyst: Clements