

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2019-694

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Dennis

Date of Introduction: September 24, 2019

Committee(s) of Reference: F, R

Date of Analysis: September 26, 2019

Type of Action: Appropriation; fiscal year carry-over; emergency approval request

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$1,850,000 from General Fund/General Services District Investment Pool Earnings to a designated special council contingency fund for the possible future hiring of special legislative counsel to the City Council on the issue of a potential JEA recapitalization. The bill authorizes carry-over of the funds into FY19-20 and requests emergency approval on first reading.

Background Information: City Charter Article 7 – Office of General Counsel – provides that “The General Counsel may authorize the City to engage outside private counsel upon written certification by the General Counsel of its necessity, and such engagement shall be in accordance with procedures set forth by the City Council.” The City Council has discussed with General Counsel Jason Gabriel the potential need to engage special counsel with expertise in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and utilities to advise the Council with regard to its role in considering a potential recapitalization or privatization of the JEA. Such a proposal would be extremely complex and would have far-reaching impacts on the City’s finances, pension plan, and other areas of operation, and would require well-informed, detailed scrutiny of the plan by the City Council to ensure that proper due diligence is exercised on behalf of the citizen owners of the utility.

Policy Impact Area: Procurement of outside legal counsel

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$1,850,000 from General Fund/General Services District Investment Pool Earnings to a designated special council contingency fund for potential future appropriation.

Analyst: Clements