

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci & Co-Sponsored by Ferraro,
2 Freeman, Dennis and Hazouri and amended by the Transportation,
3 Energy and Utilities Committee:
4
5

6 **RESOLUTION 2019-864-A**

7 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF
8 HOUSE BILL 653 WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT MUNICIPAL
9 ELECTRIC UTILITIES FROM USING SPECIFIED
10 REVENUES TO FINANCE GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL
11 FUNCTIONS; DIRECTING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
12 CIRCULATE THE RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA
13 LEGISLATURE; REQUESTING ONE CYCLE EMERGENCY
14 PASSAGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, JEA is an independent authority within the
17 consolidated City of Jacksonville, which is authorized to own,
18 manage and operate a utilities system; and

19 **WHEREAS**, as consideration for the unique relationship between
20 the City of Jacksonville and JEA, as a tax-exempt entity within the
21 consolidated government, and in recognition of the shared
22 attributes with the consolidated City of Jacksonville in connection
23 with its electric, water, and sewer distribution systems, there is
24 an annual assessment upon JEA in each fiscal year; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the minimum negotiated JEA assessments are reflected
26 as follows: for fiscal year 2016-2017 - \$115,329,413; for fiscal
27 year 2017-2018 - \$116,482,708; for fiscal year 2018-2019 -
28 \$117,647,535; for fiscal year 2019-2020 - \$118,824,010; for fiscal
29 year 2020-2021 - \$120,012,250; for fiscal year 2021-2022 -
30 \$121,212,373; and for fiscal year 2022-2023 - \$122,424,496; and

1 **WHEREAS**, JEA has also contributed additional funding in recent
2 years to the City to be used in conjunction with the City's program
3 for septic tank removal and remediation, which benefits the public
4 health and safety of the community to which it serves;

5 **WHEREAS**, a bill has been introduced at the state level (House
6 Bill 653), which would eliminate contributions to a city by a
7 municipally owned utility for any funds except for any funds to be
8 used on direct utility expenses; and

9 **WHEREAS**, passage and implementation of House Bill 653, if
10 applicable to JEA, could have detrimental impact to the City and
11 could hamstring or possibly extinguish the symbiotic relationship
12 that the City and JEA have established over the last two decades;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Council finds that the potential harm to the City
15 of Jacksonville and JEA is sufficient that the Council should
16 inform the Florida Legislature that it is opposed to House Bill 653
17 in its current form and urges that the Florida Legislature withdraw
18 or defeat the bill; now therefore

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

20 **Section 1. Council's Strong Opposition for House Bill**
21 **653.** The City Council strongly opposes and urges the Florida
22 Legislature to defeat passage of House Bill 653, which would
23 prohibit municipal electric utilities from using specified revenues
24 to finance general governmental functions.

25 **Section 2. Direction to Chief of Legislative Services**
26 **Division.** The Chief of Legislative Services for the City Council is
27 hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Florida
28 Legislature, the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and the
29 Speaker of the House.

30 **Section 3. Requesting One Cycle Emergency Passage**
31 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** One Cycle Emergency

1 Passage of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
2 emergency is that the Florida Legislature is scheduled to take up
3 the legislation in early January and the Council would like to
4 provide comments before they take action.

5 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
6 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
7 without the Mayor's signature.

8 Form Approved:

9
10 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

13 GC-#1327773-v1-2019-864-A.docx

14