

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2021-681

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Gaffney

Date of Introduction: September 14, 2021

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: September 16, 2021

Type of Action: Expressing support for local bill J-1

Bill Summary: The bill expresses the Council's support for the Florida Legislature's passage of local bill J-1 which would allow for a modification of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco's space and seating requirements for on-site alcoholic beverage establishments in the Northside East and Northside West areas of downtown Jacksonville (the Northbank East and West tax increment district) and the creation of a new Kings Avenue Commercial Corridor where the same modifications would be allowed.

Background Information: The Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco is responsible for issuing alcoholic beverage sales and service licenses. Licensing of a restaurant for on-premises consumption of alcohol typically requires a minimum of 2,500 square feet of service area, sufficient seating capacity to serve meals to 150 persons at a time, and the derivation of at least 51% of the gross food and beverage revenue of the restaurant from food and non-alcoholic beverage sales. In 1987 the Legislature designated a Northside East, Northside West and Southbank zone in downtown Jacksonville (the combined Northbank and Southbank community redevelopment areas/tax increment districts) within which restaurants could be licensed for alcoholic beverage sales with a reduced seating capacity requirement from 150 to 100 patrons and a reduced square footage requirement from 2,500 to 1,800 square feet. This bill expresses support for passage of a J-bill that would further reduce the minimum seating capacity from 100 to 50 seats and reduce the square footage requirement from 1,800 to 1,000 square feet in the Northbank portion of the zone.

The bill also supports the creation by Legislative action of a new Kings Avenue Commercial Corridor where the seating capacity requirement for licensing would be reduced from 150 to 100 seats. The corridor incorporates the properties on both sides of Kings Avenue from Prudential Drive on the north to I-95, and between Kings Avenue and Montana Avenue, Alabama Avenue and I-95 from I-95 south to Atlantic Boulevard.

Policy Impact Area: Alcoholic beverage licensing requirements

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined; will allow smaller premises than permitted under general state regulations to be licensed for alcoholic beverage sales, which may produce additional sales tax revenues.

Analyst: Clements