

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1277 City of Jacksonville, Duval County/Civil Service Board
SPONSOR(S): Davis, D.
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Local Affairs (Sub)</u>	_____	<u>Grayson</u>	<u>Cutchins</u>
2) <u>Local Government & Veterans' Affairs</u>	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill amends the Charter of the City of Jacksonville regarding the City's Civil Service Board. The bill changes the number of board members to provide for the appointment of a board member by the JEA, the City's electrical system authority. The bill provides for the vacancy of a board seat based upon that member missing 3 consecutive meetings or 50% of the meeting during a calendar year. The bill provides for removal of a board member for cause. The bill provides for ineligibility of board members based upon employment with the City and other similar employment. Finally, the bill prohibits ex parte communications with board members.

The bill does not impact the state budget according to the Economic Impact Statement.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, 5 members serve on the Civil Service Board of the City of Jacksonville. None of the members are appointed by the JEA. The JEA is the authority that owns, operates and manages the electric system established by the City of Jacksonville in 1895. The board annually elects a Chair. No member can be employed by the City of Jacksonville or be connected with the city administration. Current legislation provides for *ex parte* communications.

The bill amends the City of Jacksonville Charter (Charter) to:

- expand the membership of the Civil Service Board by 2 members (both Mayoral appointees);
- to reduce the School Board’s appointees from 3 to 2;
- to give the JEA the authority to appoint 1 member; and
- to provide for a transition mechanism from the current to the new appointment method.

The bill provides for the board to elect a vice-chair and provides that non-attendance by a board member at 3 consecutive meetings or 50% of the meetings in a calendar year provides grounds for a declaration by the Mayor that the member’s seat is vacant and is to be refilled by the appropriate appointing authority.

The bill also provides that the City Council may remove members of the Civil Service Board for cause under due process of law.

The bill further provides that no member of the Civil Service Board shall be an agent of or employed by the City, the JEA, the School Board, or any collective bargaining organization representing employees of those entities.

Finally, the bill prohibits any *ex parte* communication regarding the business of the board and requires disclosure of any *ex parte* communications that may take place before voting on the matter to which it relates.

According to information provided by a representative of the Duval Delegation Office, the bill was requested by the Mayor’s Office to deal with quorum and attendance problems.¹

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends ss. 17.02, 17.10, and 17.12 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville, as created by ch. 92-341, L.O.F.

¹ City Council Research Division, Legislative Summary, Resolution 2003-1448, 11/14/-03.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

November 7, 2003.

WHERE?

Daily Record, a daily (except Saturday and Sunday) newspaper published in Jacksonville, Duval County.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENT/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.