

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

The City of Jacksonville and Duval County merged in 1968¹, creating a single consolidated government entity (City) governing all of Duval County with the exception of the beach communities (Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach) and Baldwin. The City government operates under a mayor as head of the administrative branch and the City Council as the legislative branch.

Jacksonville Economic Development Commission

The Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (Commission) was created in 1997 when the Legislature amended the City's charter in ch. 97-339, L.O.F. According to the "whereas" clauses in that legislation, economic development was an issue addressed by many agencies, authorities, departments and other entities in the City. The Commission was created to provide a focal point for economic development in the City that would result in centralization of economic development programs under one "umbrella" agency, ensuring a more efficient and practical means of addressing the goals, objectives, and strategies for economic development in the City.

The Commission is an autonomous body within the Office of the Mayor and is designated as the sole community redevelopment agency for the City under ch. 163, F.S., and as the sole industrial development authority for the City under ch. 159, F.S., with authority over all economic development functions within the City.

The Commission is governed by seven members, consisting of the chairman of the Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority and six members who are residents of the City. Commission members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Each Commission member serves a 2-year term or until a successor is appointed. Commission members serve as commissioners of the community redevelopment agency under ch. 163, F.S., and as members of the industrial development authority under ch. 159, F.S.

When the Legislature created the Commission in 1997, the powers, duties, functions, liabilities, property, and personnel of the following entities, except for their advisory and fact-finding responsibilities, were transferred to the Commission:

- Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority;
- Jacksonville Sports Development Authority;
- Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment Authority; and
- Cecil Field Development Commission.

Effect of Proposed Changes

Under this bill, the Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority, Jacksonville Sports Development Authority, Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment Authority, and Cecil Field Development Commission will no longer serve as advisory boards to the Commission. However, the

¹ Ch. 67-1320, L.O.F.

Sports and Entertainment Board is authorized by local ordinance to serve the Commission in an advisory capacity and a representative of the board will serve as a technical support advisor to the Commission as required by this bill. The bill also provides for a representative of the Jacksonville International Airport Authority to serve as a technical advisor to the Commission.

The bill authorizes the Commission to establish special or standing committees to advise the Commission on policy or strategic planning matters. Each committee chair must be a member of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission appoints all committee members upon recommendation of the chair of each committee. Advisory committee members may or may not be Commission members. Committee members serve at the will of the Commission Chair for terms not to exceed 4 years.

The bill specifically establishes the Downtown Committee of the Commission as a permanent standing committee. The Downtown Committee functions as an advisory body to the Commission to undertake fact-finding on downtown issues and provide advice to the Commission on issues of importance to the downtown area. The Commission is required to provide the Downtown Committee with all resources necessary for the Committee to perform its duties and responsibilities, including staff. The Chair of the Downtown Committee must reside, work, or own property within the downtown area.

This bill increases the number of members of the Commission from seven to nine, all of whom must be residents of the City and at least three of whom must reside, work, or own property within the Jacksonville Downtown Area.

According to the Economic Impact Statement provided by the bill sponsor, "[t]he proposed changes to the [Commission] structure will streamline the economic development approval process for all economic development projects. The revised structure will raise the priority of downtown redevelopment efforts to the Commission level, which will create a more efficient and effective project approval process. The proposed changes will also enhance staff efficiency by aligning staff efforts with the Commission's strategic plan and goals."

On December 13, 2005, the Jacksonville City Council adopted Resolution 2005-1360-A in support of this legislation.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

- Section 1. Amends Article 24 of the City of Jacksonville Charter to revise the membership of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission; revise the list of persons who serve as advisors to the Commission; eliminate special law advisory board status of several local entities; and authorize creation of advisory committees by the Commission.
- Section 2. Repeals Article 20 of ch. 93-341, L.O.F., as amended by ch. 97-339, L.O.F., to remove the Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority as an advisory board to the Commission.
- Section 3. Provides an effective date.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? October 26, 2005

WHERE? Financial News & Daily Record, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? N/A

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: This bill does not provide or amend rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Susan Stewart, representing the Duval County Legislative Delegation, indicated that “[t]his legislation is required in order to streamline the JEDC project approval process. The proposed changes will enhance staff efficiency and effectiveness and allow the commission to more aggressively promote economic development opportunities in the community. The proposed changes to the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission will streamline the economic development approval process for all economic development projects. The revised structure will raise the priority of downtown redevelopment efforts to the commission level which will create a more efficient and effective project approval process. The proposed changes will also enhance staff efficiency by aligning staff efforts with the commission’s strategic plan and goals.”

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

Not applicable.