

ENROLLED

HB 4049

2026 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to the office of general counsel of  
 3 the City of Jacksonville, Duval County; amending  
 4 chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended;  
 5 authorizing the Duval County School Board to employ a  
 6 general counsel, who shall be independent of the  
 7 office of general counsel of the City of Jacksonville;  
 8 providing that certain legal services continue to be  
 9 provided through the office of general counsel of the  
 10 city; providing an effective date.

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 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
 14 Section 1. Section 7.01 of Article 7 of chapter 92-341,  
 15 Laws of Florida, as amended by City of Jacksonville Ordinance  
 16 No. 2014-723-E, is amended to read:

17 ARTICLE 7

18 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

19 Part 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

20 Section 7.01. Office established; general responsibility.

21 There is established an office of the City of Jacksonville  
 22 to be known as the office of general counsel, which shall have  
 23 the responsibility for furnishing legal services to the city and  
 24 its independent agencies, except that the council may create an  
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26 | office of legislative counsel within the legislative branch  
27 | whose purpose shall be to advise and assist the council and its  
28 | committees and members in the achievement of a clear, faithful  
29 | and coherent expression of legislative policies and to perform  
30 | such other related duties for the council as the council may by  
31 | ordinance direct. For purposes of utilization of central  
32 | services by the city and its independent agencies, the services  
33 | of the office of general counsel shall be deemed to be central  
34 | services or services of the central service department, as the  
35 | case may be. The general counsel shall provide to any member of  
36 | the Duval County legislative delegation who resides in Duval  
37 | County upon request an opinion on any matter relative to the  
38 | government of the City of Jacksonville or any of its independent  
39 | agencies.

40 |       The General Counsel may employ, supervise and terminate  
41 | assistant counsels to assist with the efficient provision of  
42 | legal services for the City's independent agencies. The General  
43 | Counsel may authorize the independent agencies to engage outside  
44 | counsel upon certification by the General Counsel of compliance  
45 | with the Charter and with the agency's authority and a written  
46 | finding of necessity by the General Counsel. The General Counsel  
47 | may authorize the City to engage outside private counsel upon  
48 | written certification by the General Counsel of its necessity,  
49 | and such engagement shall be in accordance with procedures set  
50 | forth by the City Council.

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51 Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in the  
52 general and permanent ordinances and charter and related laws of  
53 the City of Jacksonville, the Duval County School Board may  
54 employ its own general counsel, who shall be independent of the  
55 office of general counsel of the City of Jacksonville but shall  
56 be subject to the opinion, binding or otherwise, of the general  
57 counsel of the City of Jacksonville in accordance with section  
58 7.202. This provision shall apply only to the selection and  
59 employment of a general counsel for the Duval County School  
60 Board. All other legal services to the Duval County School Board  
61 and the Duval County Public Schools, as determined and assigned  
62 by the general counsel to the Duval County School Board,  
63 including, but not limited to, representation of the Duval  
64 County School Board and the Duval County Public Schools in  
65 litigation and contract preparation, shall continue to be  
66 provided through the office of general counsel of the City of  
67 Jacksonville, and the attorneys who provide such services shall  
68 be subject solely to the supervision of the general counsel of  
69 the City of Jacksonville.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.