

1 A bill to be entitled
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:

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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
19 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

20 Part 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

21 Section 7.01. Office established; general responsibility.

22 There is established an office of the City of Jacksonville
23 to be known as the office of general counsel, which shall have
24 the responsibility for furnishing legal services to the city and
25 its independent agencies, except that the council may create an

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.

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.