

## CHAPTER 2026-206

### House Bill No. 4049

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

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

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

#### ARTICLE 7

##### OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

###### Part 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 7.01. Office established; general responsibility.

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

The General Counsel may employ, supervise and terminate assistant counsels to assist with the efficient provision of legal services for the City's independent agencies. The General Counsel may authorize the independent agencies to engage outside counsel upon certification by the General Counsel of compliance with the Charter and with the agency's authority and a written finding of necessity by the General Counsel. The General Counsel may authorize the City to engage outside private counsel upon written

certification by the General Counsel of its necessity, and such engagement shall be in accordance with procedures set forth by the City Council.

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

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

Approved by the Governor June 8, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 8, 2026.