

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



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RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSONVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION

Florida Senate Bill 2017-80: an Act relating to public records and attorney fees in
civil enforcement actions

March 13, 2017

The Jacksonville Ethics Commission is a local forum established by the Jacksonville City Charter to consider ethics issues. The Ethics Commission has studied and considered Senate Bill 2017-80, an act pertaining to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119 Florida Statutes. The Ethics Commission acknowledges that the bill is still in Committee and not in final form. The Ethics Commission further recognizes the competing interests of upholding the citizens' constitutional and statutory rights to obtain public records, with the need to address costly and frivolous lawsuits levied against Florida municipalities for the sole purpose of obtaining an award of attorneys' fees.

We encourage our Florida lawmakers to continue to work towards an equitable solution that is in the best interests of Florida citizens: one that will both protect citizens' constitutional and statutory right to access public records, while further protecting them, as taxpayers, from costs expended by their municipalities defending frivolous litigation and paying the mandatory attorneys' fees awards resulting therefrom. It is important to achieve a solution that maintains these citizen rights; any decrease in these rights should be narrowly carved out to only address those who abuse the law.

BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Aull", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Aull, Vice-Chair
JACKSONVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION

Vote (3/13/17): In Favor: 6 Opposed: 1

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