May 15, 2006

S 1385. JACKSONVILLE INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM. Filed 5/15/06. *TO ALLOW FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE*. To be summarized in tomorrow's *Daily Bulletin.*

Intro. by Brown. ONSLOW

May 16, 2006

S 1385. JACKSONVILLE INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM. Filed 5/15/06. *TO ALLOW FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE*. Amends the charter of the City of Jacksonville (SL 1967-911) to give to the qualified voters of the city the powers of initiative and referendum. Under initiative, the voters may propose an ordinance and (if the city council does not adopt it) have it put to a vote of the voters for adoption. Under referendum, the voters may require reconsideration of an ordinance adopted by the city council and (if the city council does not repeal the ordinance) have the repeal of the ordinance put to the voters. The procedure is as follows: (1) Five or more voters (called the “petitioners’ committee”) may together start the initiative or referendum procedure by filing with the city clerk an affidavit that they intend to start the circulation of a petition and will be responsible for filing it. (2) If the petitioners’ committee secures the signatures of registered voters equal in number to 15% of the number who voted in the most recent election for mayor, they may file the petition with the city clerk. (3) Under rules adopted by the city council, the county board of elections will examine the petitions and certify that there is the requisite number of qualifying signatures. (4) If the petition is a referendum petition, it must be filed within 30 days of the adoption of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered. the effectiveness of the ordinance is suspended until there is a vote of the voters. (5) The city council may pass an ordinance containing the substantive change requested in the initiative petition, or repeal the ordinance sought to be repealed by the referendum petition. In that case, there is no vote of the voters. if the city council does not take this action, however, it must call for a vote of the voters within 150 days of the certification of the petition. (6) The petitioners’ committee may withdraw the petitions at any time up to the fifteenth day before the day of the scheduled vote. (7) Neither initiative or referendum applies to a budget ordinance, a bond order, a franchise ordinance, or an amendment to the charter to change the form of town governance under GS 160A-101.

Intro. by Brown. ONSLOW