

RESOLUTION NO. R-04-2023

Resolution Opposing HB 1131 by Representative Busatta Cabrera and SB 1380 by Senator Martin

WHEREAS, the City of Green Cove Springs has chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility for the benefit of all customers receiving electric utility services from the City of Green Cove Springs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Green Cove Springs Electric Department reinvests heavily in its utility infrastructure and prides itself in providing reliable, efficient, and affordable electric, water and wastewater service to our 4,797 customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Green Cove Springs Electric Department makes an annual contribution to the City's general fund in support of general governmental functions and operations of the City of Green Cove Springs, including life and public safety services such as police and fire emergency services, and other health, safety, recreation, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City of Green Cove Springs Electric Department contribution to the City's general fund for fiscal year 2022-2023 totaled \$850,000 in community reinvestment and supported a multitude of programs and services enjoyed by the City's residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 were introduced at the state level this legislative session and would allow the state to set cap on transfers of municipal electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater utility revenues to a municipal general fund to finance general government functions by dictating the limitation on the amount of such general fund contributions; and

WHEREAS, adoption of House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 would only serve to further hamstring a local government's ability to effectively utilize its financial resources to provide the programs and services it deems most appropriate to meet the needs of residents and visitors of its community; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the potential harm to the City of Green Cove Springs is sufficient that the Council should inform the Florida Legislature that it is opposed to House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 and urges the Florida Legislature to defeat both bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Council of the City of Green Cove Springs hereby strongly opposes HB 1331 and SB 1380, relating to municipal utilities, and respectfully urges the Florida Legislature to reject House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney