

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to acceptance of cash payments by  
 3           businesses; creating s. 559.96, F.S.; providing  
 4           definitions; requiring certain businesses to accept  
 5           cash payments for certain transactions; prohibiting  
 6           fees or conditions for such transactions; providing  
 7           applicability and civil penalties; requiring the  
 8           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to  
 9           adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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 13           Section 1. Section 559.96, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 14 read:

15           559.96 Acceptance of cash payments by businesses.-

16           (1) As used in this section, the term:

17           (a) "Business" means any business operating at a fixed,  
 18 permanent physical premises, from a vehicle or other mobile  
 19 space, or from a temporary physical premises.

20           (b) "Cash" means legal tender of the United States in the  
 21 form of coins or currency.

22           (c) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and  
 23 Consumer Services.

24           (2) (a) A business must accept an offer of payment in cash  
 25 for any transaction involving the purchase of any tangible good

26 or any service if, in connection with such transaction, the  
27 business would accept one or more other forms of payment and the  
28 customer seeking to engage in such transaction is physically  
29 present at the place of business.

30 (b) A business may not charge a fee or place any other  
31 condition on its acceptance of cash as required by paragraph  
32 (a).

33 (3) This section does not apply to:

34 (a) Sales that are not conducted in person, including  
35 telephone, mail, Internet-based transactions, or other  
36 electronic transactions.

37 (b) A parking facility owned by a municipality regardless  
38 of who operates the facility.

39 (c) A parking facility that accepts electronic funds  
40 transfer.

41 (d) A business providing services by accountants,  
42 architects, attorneys, engineers, financial advisers, insurance  
43 agents, interior designers, software developers, and management  
44 and other consultants, not including services provided by  
45 licensed medical or allied health care practitioners.

46 (e) Sales in which the business suspects the use of  
47 counterfeit cash.

48 (f) The use of cash denominations larger than \$20 by a  
49 customer.

50 (g) Single transactions more than \$5,000.

51        (4) A business that violates this section is subject to a  
52 civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for a first offense, up to \$5,000  
53 for a second offense, and up to \$10,000 for a third or  
54 subsequent offense to be assessed by the department.

55        (5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
56 section.

57        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.