

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to electronic payments made to units
3 of local governments; amending s. 215.322, F.S.;
4 revising legislative intent; requiring units of local
5 government to accept certain forms of payments;
6 providing an exception; requiring such local
7 governments to accept payments online; providing an
8 effective date.

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

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12 **Section 1. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 215.322,**
13 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

14 215.322 Acceptance of credit cards, charge cards, debit
15 cards, or electronic funds transfers by state agencies, units of
16 local government, and the judicial branch; acceptance of online
17 payments by units of local governments.—

18 (1) (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
19 state agencies, and the judicial branch, and require units of
20 local government to make their goods, services, and information
21 more convenient to the public through the acceptance of payments
22 by credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, or other means of
23 electronic funds transfers ~~to the maximum extent practicable~~
24 ~~when the benefits to the participating agency and the public~~
25 ~~substantiate the cost of accepting these types of payments.~~

26 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to require units
27 of local government to accept payments online.

28 (5) (a) Each A unit of local government, including a
29 municipality, special district, or board of county commissioners
30 or other governing body of a county, a consolidated or
31 metropolitan government, and any clerk of the circuit court,
32 sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, or supervisor of
33 elections, shall ~~is authorized to~~ accept payment by use of
34 credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic
35 funds transfers for financial obligations that are owing to such
36 unit of local government, except when another form of payment is
37 required by law, and is authorized to surcharge the person who
38 uses a credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or electronic
39 funds transfer in payment of taxes, license fees, tuition,
40 fines, civil penalties, court-ordered payments, or court costs,
41 or other statutorily prescribed revenues an amount sufficient to
42 pay the service fee charges by the financial institution,
43 vending service company, or credit card company for such
44 services. Such A unit of local government shall verify both the
45 validity of any credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or
46 electronic funds transfer used pursuant to this subsection and
47 the existence of appropriate credit with respect to the person
48 using the card or transfer. The unit of local government does
49 not incur any liability as a result of such verification or any
50 subsequent action taken.

51 (b) A unit of local government accepting payment under
52 paragraph (a) is required to have a method for accepting such
53 payment online.

54 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.