

By Representative Waters

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the State University System;
3 amending s. 240.289, F.S.; authorizing
4 institutions in the State University System to
5 accept payment of tuition and fees by credit
6 cards or debit cards without imposing a
7 convenience fee for card use; authorizing such
8 institutions to absorb the costs of using such
9 cards; authorizing such institutions to enter
10 into contracts with financial institutions for
11 certain purposes; requiring universities to
12 provide certain education relating to credit
13 card use and debt management; providing an
14 effective date.

15
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17
18 Section 1. Section 240.289, Florida Statutes, is
19 amended to read:

20 240.289 Credit card, charge card, and debit card use
21 in university system; authority; education.--

22 (1) The several universities in the State University
23 System are authorized, pursuant to s. 215.322, to enter into
24 agreements and accept credit card, charge card, or debit card
25 payments as compensation for goods, services, tuition, and
26 fees in accordance with rules established by the Board of
27 Regents.

28 (2) In addition, the several universities are also
29 authorized to accept credit cards and debit cards for the
30 payment of tuition and fees without the imposition of a
31 convenience fee for such card services. The costs incurred by

1 the several universities in accepting credit cards and debit
2 cards may be absorbed by the universities as a cost of doing
3 business. The universities may use any source of
4 nonappropriated funds to cover the costs of accepting such
5 cards. Subject to approval by the State Treasurer,
6 universities also may negotiate credit card contracts and
7 debit card contracts with financial institutions whereby a
8 compensating balance may be placed on deposit with the
9 financial institutions to cover the costs of accepting credit
10 cards and debit cards. The several universities may accept
11 credit card or debit card payments at any location where
12 compensation is received for goods, services, tuition, or
13 fees, whether the payor makes payment in person or by
14 electronic means.

15 (3) Each university shall ensure that students are
16 provided opportunities to become educated as to the proper use
17 of credit cards, methods to avoid indebtedness, and how to
18 manage debt responsibly. Each university shall develop
19 internal policies to ensure that such education is made
20 available to each student at the university, including, but
21 not limited to, use of informational seminars held routinely
22 on campus and a freshman life skills class or similar course
23 designed to orient new students to the college environment and
24 issues students typically confront while in college, including
25 the financially responsible use of credit cards.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

28
29
30
31

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

HOUSE SUMMARY

Authorizes institutions in the State University System to accept payment of tuition and fees by credit cards or debit cards without imposing a convenience fee for card use and authorizes such institutions to absorb the costs of using such cards. Authorizes such institutions to enter into contracts with financial institutions to cover the costs of using such cards. Requires universities to provide student education on credit card use and debt management.