

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and  
Representatives Waters, J. Miller, Greenstein, Cosgrove and  
Logan

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, charge cards, or debit cards without  
7           imposing a convenience fee for card use;  
8           authorizing such institutions to absorb the  
9           costs of using such cards; authorizing such  
10          institutions to enter into contracts with  
11          financial institutions for certain purposes;  
12          requiring universities to provide certain  
13          education relating to credit card use and debt  
14          management; providing an effective date.

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

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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, charge cards, and debit  
30 cards for the payment of tuition and fees without the  
31 imposition of a convenience fee for such card services. The

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

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

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

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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.