

By the Committee on Education and Senator Kirkpatrick

304-1932-00

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the State University System;  
amending s. 240.289, F.S.; authorizing  
universities in the system to accept credit  
cards, charge cards, and debit cards and to  
absorb the costs of using such cards; providing  
an effective date.

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

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

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

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

(2) In addition, the several universities are also  
authorized to accept credit cards, charge cards, and debit  
cards for the payment of tuition and fees without the  
imposition of a convenience fee for such card services. The  
costs incurred by the several universities in accepting credit  
cards and debit cards may be absorbed by the universities as a  
cost of doing business. The universities may use any source of  
nonappropriated funds to cover the costs of accepting such  
cards. Subject to approval by the State Treasurer,  
universities also may negotiate credit card contracts, charge  
card contracts, and debit card contracts with financial

1 institutions whereby a compensating balance may be placed on  
2 deposit with the financial institutions to cover the costs of  
3 accepting credit cards, charge cards, and debit cards. The  
4 several universities may accept credit card, charge card, or  
5 debit card payments at any location where compensation is  
6 received for goods, services, tuition, or fees, whether the  
7 payor makes payment in person or by electronic means.

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

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
20 law.

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22 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
23 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
24 SB 878

25 Authorizes state universities to accept charge cards in  
26 addition to credit cards and debit cards as payment of tuition  
and fees.

27 State Treasurer approval is required for a university to  
28 negotiate contracts with financial institutions to maintain a  
compensating balance on deposit to cover costs of accepting  
29 credit cards, charge cards, and debit cards.

30 State universities will be required to provide students with  
opportunities to learn how to use credit cards responsibly,  
31 manage debt, and avoid indebtedness.