

By the Council for Smarter Government and Representatives
 Trovillion, Cantens, Harrington, Miller, Gardiner, Henriquez,
 Gottlieb, Greenstein, Ritter, Kallinger, Brown, Bennett,
 Benson and Ross

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to construction; amending s.
 3 218.72, F.S.; redefining the terms "proper
 4 invoice," "local government entity,"
 5 "purchase," and "construction services" and
 6 defining the terms "payment request" and
 7 "agent" for the purpose of the Florida Prompt
 8 Payment Act; amending s. 218.73, F.S.;
 9 providing for timely payment for
 10 nonconstruction services; amending s. 218.735,
 11 F.S.; revising language with respect to timely
 12 payment for purchases of construction services;
 13 amending s. 218.74, F.S.; revising language
 14 with respect to procedures for calculation of
 15 payment due dates; amending s. 218.75, F.S.;
 16 revising language with respect to mandatory
 17 interest; amending s. 218.76, F.S.; revising
 18 language with respect to improper invoices and
 19 resolution of disputes; providing for the
 20 recovery of court costs and attorney's fees
 21 under certain circumstances; providing an
 22 effective date.

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

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 26 Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (5), and (7) of
 27 section 218.72, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections
 28 (8) and (9) are added to said section, to read:

29 218.72 Definitions.--As used in this part:

30 (1) "Proper invoice" means an invoice which conforms
 31 with all statutory requirements and with all requirements

1 which have been specified by the local governmental entity to
2 which the invoice is submitted ~~if:~~
3 ~~(a) Such requirements have been adopted by formal~~
4 ~~action of the local governmental entity taken prior to the~~
5 ~~transaction to which the invoice applies.~~
6 ~~(b) The local governmental entity made such~~
7 ~~requirements available to vendors.~~
8 (2) "Local governmental entity" means a county or
9 municipal government, school board, school district,
10 authority, special taxing district, other political
11 subdivision, community college, or any office, board, bureau,
12 commission, department, branch, division, or institution
13 thereof or any project supported by county or municipal funds.
14 (5) "Purchase" means the purchase of goods, ~~or~~
15 services, or construction services; the purchase or lease of
16 personal property; ~~or~~ the lease of real property by a local
17 governmental entity.
18 (7) "Construction services" means all labor, services,
19 and materials provided ~~performed~~ in connection with the
20 construction, alteration, repair, demolition, reconstruction,
21 or any other improvements to real property that require a
22 license under parts I and II of chapter 489.
23 (8) "Payment request" means a request for payment for
24 construction services which conforms with all statutory
25 requirements and with all requirements which have been
26 specified by the local governmental entity to which the
27 payment request is submitted.
28 (9) "Agent" means project architect, project engineer,
29 or any other agency or person acting on behalf of the local
30 governmental entity.
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1 Section 2. Section 218.73, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:
3 218.73 Timely payment for nonconstruction
4 services.--The time at which payment is due for a purchase
5 other than construction services by a local governmental
6 entity, ~~except for the purchase of construction services, is~~
7 ~~due~~ must be calculated from:
8 (1) The date on which a proper invoice is received by
9 the chief disbursement officer of the local governmental
10 entity after approval by the governing body, if required; or
11 (2) If a proper invoice is not received by the local
12 governmental entity, the date:
13 (a) On which delivery of personal property is accepted
14 by the local governmental entity;
15 (b) On which services are completed;
16 (c) On which the rental period begins; or
17 (d) On which the local governmental entity and vendor
18 agree in a contract that provides dates relative to payment
19 periods;
20
21 whichever date is latest.

22 Section 3. Section 218.735, Florida Statutes, is
23 amended to read:
24 218.735 Timely payment for purchases of construction
25 services.--
26 (1) The due date for payment for the purchase of
27 construction services by a local governmental entity is
28 determined as follows:
29 (a) If an agent ~~the project architect or project~~
30 ~~engineer~~ must approve the payment request or invoice prior to
31 the payment request or invoice being submitted to the local

1 governmental entity, payment is due 25 ~~20~~ business days after
2 the date on which the payment request or ~~architect or engineer~~
3 ~~approves the invoice and the~~ invoice is stamped as received as
4 provided in s. 218.74(1).

5 (b) If an agent ~~the project architect or project~~
6 ~~engineer~~ need not approve the payment request or invoice which
7 is submitted by the contractor, payment is due 20 business
8 days after the date on which the payment request or invoice is
9 stamped as received as provided in s. 218.74(1).

10 (2) The local governmental entity may reject the
11 payment request or invoice within 20 business days after the
12 date on which the payment request or invoice is stamped as
13 received as provided in s. 218.74(1). The rejection must be
14 written and must specify the deficiency in the payment request
15 or invoice and the action necessary to make the payment
16 request or invoice proper.

17 (3) If a payment request or an invoice is rejected
18 under subsection (2) ~~or this subsection~~ and the contractor
19 submits a corrected payment request or invoice which corrects
20 the deficiency specified in writing by the local governmental
21 entity, the corrected payment request or invoice must be paid
22 or rejected on the later of:

23 (a) Ten business days after the date the corrected
24 payment request or invoice is stamped as received as provided
25 in s. 218.74(1); or

26 (b) If the governing body is required by ordinance,
27 charter, or other law to approve or reject the corrected
28 payment request or invoice, the first business day after the
29 next regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body held
30 after the corrected payment request or invoice is stamped as
31 received as provided in s. 218.74(1).

1 (4) If a dispute between the local governmental entity
2 and the contractor cannot be resolved by the procedure in
3 subsection (3), the dispute must be resolved in accordance
4 with the dispute resolution procedure prescribed in the
5 construction contract or in any applicable ordinance. In the
6 absence of a prescribed procedure, the dispute must be
7 resolved by the procedure specified in s. 218.76(2).

8 (5) If a local governmental entity disputes a portion
9 of a payment request or an invoice, the undisputed portion
10 shall be paid timely, in accordance with subsection (1).~~The~~
11 ~~payment time periods provided in this section for construction~~
12 ~~services purchased by a local governmental entity shall not~~
13 ~~affect contractual provisions or contractual covenants of a~~
14 ~~local governmental entity in effect on September 30, 1995.~~

15 (6) When a contractor receives payment from a local
16 governmental entity for labor, services, or materials
17 furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by the
18 contractor, the contractor shall remit payment due to those
19 subcontractors and suppliers within 15 days after the
20 contractor's receipt of payment. When a subcontractor
21 receives payment from a contractor for labor, services, or
22 materials furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by
23 the subcontractor, the subcontractor shall remit payment due
24 to those subcontractors and suppliers within 15 days after the
25 subcontractor's receipt of payment. Nothing herein shall
26 prohibit a contractor or subcontractor from disputing,
27 pursuant to the terms of the relevant contract, all or any
28 portion of a payment alleged to be due to another party. In
29 the event of such a dispute, the contractor or subcontractor
30 may withhold the disputed portion of any such payment if the
31 contractor or subcontractor notifies the party whose payment

1 is disputed, in writing, of the amount in dispute and the
2 actions required to cure the dispute. The contractor or
3 subcontractor must pay all undisputed amounts due within the
4 time limits imposed by this section.

5 ~~(7)(6)~~ All payments due under this section ~~from a~~
6 ~~local governmental entity~~ and not made within the time periods
7 ~~period~~ specified by this section shall bear interest at the
8 rate of 1 percent per month, or the rate specified by
9 contract, whichever is greater ~~as specified in s. 218.74(4).~~

10 Section 4. Section 218.74, Florida Statutes, is
11 amended to read:

12 218.74 Procedures for calculation of payment due
13 dates.--

14 (1) Each local governmental entity shall establish
15 procedures whereby each payment request or invoice received by
16 the local governmental entity is marked as received on the
17 date on which it is delivered to an agent or employee of the
18 local governmental entity or of a facility or office of the
19 local governmental entity.

20 (2) The payment due date for a local governmental
21 entity for the purchase of goods or services other than
22 construction services is 45 days after the date specified in
23 s. 218.73. The payment due date for the purchase of
24 construction services is specified in s. 218.735.

25 (3) If the terms under which a purchase is made allow
26 for partial deliveries and a payment request or proper invoice
27 is submitted for a partial delivery, the time for payment for
28 the partial delivery must be calculated from the time of the
29 partial delivery and the submission of the payment request or
30 invoice in the same manner as provided in s. 218.73 or s.
31 218.735.

1 (4) All payments, other than payments for construction
2 services, due from a local governmental entity and not made
3 within the time specified by this section bear interest from
4 30 days after the due date at the rate of 1 percent per month
5 on the unpaid balance. The vendor must invoice the local
6 governmental entity for any interest accrued in order to
7 receive the interest payment. Any overdue period of less than
8 1 month is considered as 1 month in computing interest.
9 Unpaid interest is compounded monthly. ~~With respect to each~~
10 ~~past due payment, interest ceases to accrue after interest on~~
11 ~~that payment has accrued for 12 months.~~ For the purposes of
12 this section, the term "1 month" means a period beginning on
13 any day of one month and ending on the same day of the
14 following month.

15 Section 5. Section 218.75, Florida Statutes, is
16 amended to read:

17 218.75 Mandatory interest.--No contract between a
18 local governmental entity and a vendor or a provider of
19 construction services shall prohibit the collection of vendor
20 ~~from invoicing the local governmental entity for~~ late payment
21 interest charges allowable under this part.

22 Section 6. Section 218.76, Florida Statutes, is
23 amended to read:

24 218.76 Improper payment request or invoice; resolution
25 of disputes.--

26 (1) In any case in which an improper payment request
27 or invoice is submitted by a vendor, the local governmental
28 entity shall, within 10 days after the improper payment
29 request or invoice is received by it, notify the vendor that
30 the payment request or invoice is improper and indicate what
31

1 corrective action on the part of the vendor is needed to make
2 the payment request or invoice proper.

3 (2) In the event a dispute occurs between a vendor and
4 a local governmental entity concerning payment of a payment
5 request or an invoice, such disagreement shall be finally
6 determined by the local governmental entity as provided in
7 this section. Each local governmental entity shall establish
8 a dispute resolution procedure to be followed by the local
9 governmental entity in cases of such disputes. Such procedure
10 shall provide that proceedings to resolve the dispute shall be
11 commenced not later than 45 days after the date on which the
12 payment request or proper invoice was received by the local
13 governmental entity and shall be concluded by final decision
14 of the local governmental entity not later than 60 days after
15 the date on which the payment request or proper invoice was
16 received by the local governmental entity. Such procedures
17 shall not be subject to chapter 120, and such procedures shall
18 not constitute an administrative proceeding which prohibits a
19 court from deciding de novo any action arising out of the
20 dispute. If the dispute is resolved in favor of the local
21 governmental entity, then interest charges shall begin to
22 accrue 10 ~~15~~ days after the local governmental entity's final
23 decision. If the dispute is resolved in favor of the vendor,
24 then interest shall begin to accrue as of the original date
25 the payment became due.

26 (3) In an action to enforce the provisions of ss.
27 218.70-218.80, the court shall award court costs and
28 reasonable attorney's fees, including fees incurred through
29 any appeal, to the prevailing party, if the court finds that
30 the nonprevailing party withheld any portion of the payment
31 that is the subject of the action without any reasonable basis

1 in law or fact to dispute the prevailing party's claim to
2 those amounts.

3 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
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