

By Senator Mayfield

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to parking on public property;  
creating s. 316.1971, F.S.; defining the terms "public  
property" and "publicly owned buildings or  
facilities"; requiring local governments to refund  
owners of vehicles who pay fees to park on specified  
public property in certain circumstances; requiring  
local governments to carry over any unused portion of  
time for the benefit of the next vehicle owner who  
pays a fee to park on such public property in certain  
circumstances; prohibiting certain vehicles from being  
towed or issued a traffic citation for a specified  
time period after being parked on specified public  
property; prohibiting local governments from allowing  
private business entities or enterprises to use  
specified public property for private parking purposes  
for a fee; providing construction; providing an  
effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 316.1971, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

316.1971 Parking on public property.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Public property" means any publicly owned way or place  
used by vehicles, including, but not limited to, streets,  
roadways, highways, parking garages, and metered or timed  
parking spaces or parking lots.

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(b) "Publicly owned buildings or facilities" means a building or facility owned by a state or local governmental entity or agency. The term includes any building or facility owned by a state university or Florida College System institution.

(2) A local government shall refund an owner of a vehicle who pays a fee to park on public property, including public property associated with publicly owned buildings or facilities, any portion of such fee if the owner does not use the allotted time. In the event a refund is not possible, the local government shall carry over any unused portion of time for the benefit of the next vehicle owner who pays a fee to park on the same public property.

(3) If a vehicle is parked on public property, including public property associated with publicly owned buildings or facilities, in violation of a county or municipal law or ordinance governing parking:

(a) The vehicle may not be towed until at least 12 hours have elapsed from the time the vehicle was parked, if parked on a street, roadway, or highway; or

(b) The vehicle owner may not be issued a traffic citation until at least 2 hours have elapsed from the time the meter or allotted time expired, if parked in a metered or timed public parking space, public parking lot, or public parking garage.

(4) A local government may not allow a private business entity or enterprise to use public property for private parking purposes for a fee.

(5) This section does not prohibit the governing body of a county or municipality, with respect to public property under

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59 its jurisdiction, from regulating the parking of vehicles for  
60 any purpose.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.