

By Senator Mayfield

19-01305-26

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 (5) This section does not prohibit the governing body of a
58 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.