FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: CS/HB 967 **TITLE:** Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments **SPONSOR(S):** Buchanan	**COMPANION BILL:** SB 1612 (DiCeglie) **LINKED BILLS:** None **RELATED BILLS:** None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 110 **Y's** 0 **N's** **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:
The bill requires local governments to accept payment by means of credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic funds transfers, except when another form of payment is required by law, and to have a method for accepting such payments online.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:
None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires each unit of local government, including all municipalities, special districts, counties, and county constitutional officers, to accept payment by the use of credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic funds transfers for financial obligations owed to the local government, except when another form of payment is required by law. The bill also requires each local government to have a method for accepting electronic payment online. (Section 1)

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 25, 2026, ch. 2026-169, L.O.F., and will become effective on January 1, 2027. (Section 2)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Electronic Payments to Governments
Current law encourages state agencies, the judicial branch, and local governments to make their goods, services, and information more convenient to the public through the acceptance of electronic payments to the maximum extent practicable when the benefits of accepting the payments outweigh the costs.[1]

Municipalities, special districts, counties, and county constitutional officers may accept payment by credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or electronic funds transfer for financial obligations that are owed to the local government.[2] If an electronic payment is used for taxes, license fees, tuition, fines, civil penalties, court-ordered payments, court costs, or other statutorily prescribed revenues, a local government may add a surcharge to the payment sufficient to cover the service fee charged by the financial institution, vending service company, or credit card company. The local government is responsible for verifying the validity of the method of payment used and whether the person using the card or transfer has sufficient credit to complete the transaction.

[1] S. 215.332(1), F.S.
[2] S. 215.332(5), F.S.

Governments across the world have increasingly adopted electronic forms of payment to reduce inefficiencies and security risks associated with paper-based methods of payments.[3] Countries such as Sweden and the United Kingdom have nearly eliminated paper checks, while President Trump signed an executive order in March 2025 directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cease issuing paper checks for federal disbursements, including those to other governmental entities, to the extent permitted by law.[4] The Treasury Department estimates that each paper check costs $1.05 to process, whereas electronic payments cost just $0.02 per transaction, resulting in millions in annual savings.[5]

[3] Catalis, *Accelerating Digital Payments in Government* (last visited Jan. 15, 2026).
[4] *See id.* and The White House, *Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account (Mar. 25, 2025)* (last visited Jan. 15, 2026).
[5] Catalis, *Accelerating Digital Payments in Government* (last visited Jan. 15, 2026).