

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to electronic payments made to units
3 of local governments; amending s. 215.322, F.S.;
4 revising legislative intent; requiring units of local
5 government to accept certain forms of payments;
6 requiring such local governments to accept payments
7 online; providing an effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 **Section 1. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 215.322,**
12 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

13 215.322 Acceptance of credit cards, charge cards, debit
14 cards, or electronic funds transfers by state agencies, units of
15 local government, and the judicial branch; acceptance of online
16 payments by units of local governments.—

17 (1)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
18 state agencies, ~~and~~ and the judicial branch, and require units of
19 local government to make their goods, services, and information
20 more convenient to the public through the acceptance of payments
21 by credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, or other means of
22 electronic funds transfers ~~to the maximum extent practicable~~
23 ~~when the benefits to the participating agency and the public~~
24 ~~substantiate the cost of accepting these types of payments.~~

25 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to require units

26 of local government to accept payments online.

27 (5) (a) Each ~~A~~ unit of local government, including a
28 municipality, special district, or board of county commissioners
29 or other governing body of a county, a consolidated or
30 metropolitan government, and any clerk of the circuit court,
31 sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, or supervisor of
32 elections, shall ~~is authorized to~~ accept payment by use of
33 credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic
34 funds transfers for financial obligations that are owing to such
35 unit of local government and to surcharge the person who uses a
36 credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or electronic funds
37 transfer in payment of taxes, license fees, tuition, fines,
38 civil penalties, court-ordered payments, or court costs, or
39 other statutorily prescribed revenues an amount sufficient to
40 pay the service fee charges by the financial institution,
41 vending service company, or credit card company for such
42 services. Such ~~A~~ unit of local government shall verify both the
43 validity of any credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or
44 electronic funds transfer used pursuant to this subsection and
45 the existence of appropriate credit with respect to the person
46 using the card or transfer. The unit of local government does
47 not incur any liability as a result of such verification or any
48 subsequent action taken.

49 (b) A unit of local government accepting payment under
50 paragraph (a) is required to have a method for accepting such

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51 | payment online.

52 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.