

CHAPTER 2026-169

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 967

An act relating to electronic payments made to units of local governments; amending s. 215.322, F.S.; revising legislative intent; requiring units of local government to accept certain forms of payments; providing an exception; requiring such local governments to accept payments online; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 215.322, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

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

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to require units of local government to accept payments online.

(5)(a) Each A unit of local government, including a municipality, special district, or board of county commissioners or other governing body of a county, a consolidated or metropolitan government, and any clerk of the circuit court, sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, or supervisor of elections, ~~shall be authorized to accept payment by use of credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic funds transfers for financial obligations that are owing to such unit of local government, except when another form of payment is required by law, and is authorized to surcharge the person who uses a credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or electronic funds transfer in payment of taxes, license fees, tuition, fines, civil penalties, court-ordered payments, or court costs, or other statutorily prescribed revenues an amount sufficient to pay the service fee charges by the financial institution, vending service company, or credit card company for such services.~~ Such A unit of local government shall verify both the validity of any credit card, charge card, bank debit card, or electronic funds transfer used pursuant to this subsection and the existence of appropriate credit with respect to the person using the card or transfer. The unit of local government

does not incur any liability as a result of such verification or any subsequent action taken.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Approved by the Governor June 25, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 25, 2026.