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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

The bill expands the list of items which may be paid for by a county credit card to include work-related transportation and Internet service provider expenses. In addition, the bill allows a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution which authorizes the acceptance of payments by financial transaction devices, which are defined by the bill as including credit cards, debit cards, electronic transfers, and wire transfers. The resolution must include the following:

- 1) A specification of those county elected officials who are authorized to accept payments by financial transaction devices,
- 2) A list of the types of expenses that may be paid for by a financial transaction device,
- 3) A list of the types of financial transaction devices that may be used,
- 4) Identification of those financial institutions authorized to process transactions made by financial transaction devices,
- 5) The amount, if any, authorized as a surcharge of convenience fee, and
- 6) A penalty provision for use of a financial transaction device which is returned or dishonored.

The bill could result in some costs or savings to counties, depending upon the county's current policies and whether and how the county implements new policies under the bill. What the bill does, however, is give the county commissioners more control over how and where credit cards may be used, and thus gives them more control over any related costs or savings.

For example, when a county allows users to pay for county fees or services with credit cards, in many cases financial institutions will charge the county a two to five percent transaction fee. A county may be able to lower their transaction fees with a 'volume discount' earned by aggregating transactions from all county offices at one financial institution. Thus, a county-wide coordination of credit card acceptance policies may result in savings, or at least reduced costs, to the county.

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