

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 554

Representative Thomas, D.

Cosponsor: Representative Pizzulli

To enact sections 9.18, 1333.96, 1333.97, and
1333.98 of the Revised Code to require
governmental entities and private sellers to
accept cash as payment in certain circumstances.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 9.18, 1333.96, 1333.97, and
1333.98 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

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Sec. 9.18. (A) As used in this section:

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(1) "Governmental entity" means the state or a political
subdivision, or any private person or business acting as an
agent of the state or a political subdivision, that accepts
payments from people at a physical location.

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(2) "Political subdivision" has the same meaning as in
section 9.48 of the Revised Code.

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(3) "State" has the same meaning as in section 2744.01 of
the Revised Code.

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(B) For any debt, purchase, or transaction totaling five
hundred dollars or less, a governmental entity shall accept cash
when offered as payment.

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(C) A governmental entity shall not charge a person making 19
a cash payment a higher price compared to the price charged to a 20
person not paying with cash. 21

Sec. 1333.96. (A) As used in this section, "at retail" 22
includes any retail transaction conducted in person and excludes 23
any telephone, mail, or internet-based transaction. 24

(B) A person selling or offering for sale goods or 25
services at retail shall comply with the following requirements: 26

(1) Accept cash when offered by a buyer as payment for any 27
debt, purchase, or transaction totaling five hundred dollars or 28
less; 29

(2) Provide at least one point-of-sale station, either 30
automated or operated by a person, that allows a buyer to pay 31
using cash as payment; 32

(3) Not charge a person making a cash payment a higher 33
price compared to the price charged to a person not paying with 34
cash. 35

Sec. 1333.97. The requirements stated in section 1333.96 36
of the Revised Code do not apply to a person selling goods or 37
services at an airport. 38

Sec. 1333.98. A violation of section 1333.96 of the 39
Revised Code is an unfair or deceptive act or practice in 40
violation of section 1345.02 of the Revised Code. A person 41
injured by a violation of section 1333.96 of the Revised Code 42
has a cause of action and is entitled to the same relief 43
available to a consumer under section 1345.09 of the Revised 44
Code. All powers and remedies available to the attorney general 45
to enforce sections 1345.01 to 1345.13 of the Revised Code are 46
available to the attorney general to enforce section 1333.96 of 47

the Revised Code.