Client Alert: Initiative for a Digital Economy Act for Digital and Electronic Payments

On September 8, 2026, the Federal Executive submitted to the Chamber of Deputies the Initiative for a Digital Economy Act for Digital and Electronic Payments[1] (the "**Initiative**") as part of the Economic Package for the 2027 fiscal year.

The Initiative's primary objective is to promote the adoption and implementation of Electronic and Digital Payment Means (such as QR codes, NFC devices, debit/credit cards, and transfers), bridging the gap between existing technological infrastructure and its actual adoption, thereby enabling anyone to make payments digitally.

According to the statement of reasons of the Initiative, the project seeks to reduce transaction costs and processing times; decrease risks associated with cash handling; generate a verifiable transactional history for SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and individuals to facilitate financial inclusion; and increase sales opportunities and access to financial services.

I. Digital Identification Mechanisms

To enable the remote contracting of financial services, the Initiative recognizes two trust mechanisms, subject to the holder's consent:

- Digital CURP: Its use is optional for the user, but financial entities will be required to accept it as an identification mechanism.
- Digital Citizen File (*Expediente Digital Ciudadano*): Financial entities must accept it as a validation mechanism at the user's request, and the digital documents comprising it will have the same legal effect that the law grants to physical documents.

II. New Obligations

1. Public Sector

Authorities across all three levels of government must:

- Accept Electronic and Digital Payment Means in administrative procedures and services.
- Adopt and implement the Models for the Standardization of Procedures, as well as the Technological Solutions (National Digital Investment Window, Commercial Establishments Platform, Digital CURP, and Digital Citizen File) issued by the Digital Transformation and Telecommunications Agency.

2. Private Sector

Goods and service providers and financial entities:

- Are empowered to implement Electronic and Digital Payment Means.

1. Exhibit G of the Economic Package for the 2027 fiscal year, which enacts the Digital Economy Act for Digital and Electronic Payments, published in the Parliamentary Gazette of the Chamber of Deputies, on September 8, 2026. https://gaceta.diputados.gob.mx/

- Must promote financial inclusion by disseminating products/services and facilitating the granting of credits, loans, and financing through such means.

3. Strategic Sectors or Relevant Activities

The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit ("**SHCP**") will determine the activities or sectors in which digital payment will be the sole permitted means, within 15 business days following the entry into force of the Decree. Subsequently, the competent authorities will have 15 business days to issue the provisions regulating their conditions and obligations. Certainly, the authority granted to the SHCP is the core point of the Initiative, vesting it to unilaterally restrict the use of cash by sector of activity, a mechanism that creates regulatory tension with Article 4 of the Monetary Law of the United Mexican States (*Ley Monetaria de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos*).

4. Exception in Case of Contingencies

In cases of acts of God or force majeure, payment in cash or check will be temporarily permitted, without this justifying permanent non-compliance.

5. Bank of Mexico ("Banxico")

Within the framework of this Initiative, specific powers are provided for Banxico to implement and regulate the new digital ecosystem. In this regard, the central bank will be authorized to expand the operational levels of sight deposit accounts and implement computer programs to facilitate the use of electronic fund transfers.

Additionally, it may issue general regulations aimed at standardizing the user experience in financial service applications and, jointly with the National Banking and Securities Commission ("**CNBV**"), regulate entities operating Point of Sale (POS) Terminals so that they allow collection via QR codes. Finally, Banxico will be responsible for establishing the necessary measures and infrastructure to foster and increase the population's access to financial services.

III. Implications and Next Steps

If approved in its terms, both financial sector entities and goods and service providers must adapt their compliance policies, technological systems, and remote contracting models to accommodate the new identification and payment mechanisms.

Furthermore, companies belonging to sectors designated by the SHCP as "strategic" must mandatorily migrate to 100% digital schemes within short timeframes following the entry into force of the rule, this being the most critical point of the Initiative, as it confers a unilateral authority that restricts the acceptability of cash under the terms of the Monetary Law of the United Mexican States.

At Von Wobeser y Sierra, we will monitor the progress of this Initiative, and our team remains at your disposal to evaluate its impact, as well as to design compliance and risk mitigation strategies.

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