

1 SB14  
2 214923-1  
3 By Senator Singleton (N & P)  
4 RFD: Local Legislation  
5 First Read: 29-OCT-21

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to Hale County; to authorize the Sheriff of Hale County to establish procedures to make limited purchases using a credit or debit card, provided compliance with required accountability and audit measures and other procedures are followed.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) This act shall apply only to Hale County.

(b) For purposes of this act, the following words have the following meanings:

(1) CREDIT CARD. A line of credit issued by a domestic lender or credit card bank.

(2) DEBIT CARD. A card issued by a bank in relation to a checking or savings account held by the Hale County Sheriff's Office.

1           (c) To provide for convenience in making purchases  
2 of tangible personal property or services approved by the  
3 sheriff, the Sheriff of Hale County may establish procedures  
4 to make certain purchases from funds under the control of the  
5 sheriff through use of a credit or debit card issued to the  
6 Hale County Sheriff's Office.

7           (d) The sheriff may adopt written policy and  
8 procedures governing the use of credit or debit cards which,  
9 at a minimum, include each of the following:

10           (1) A monetary limit on the amount of any individual  
11 purchase which may be made with a credit or debit card.

12           (2) A monetary limit on the total monthly amount  
13 that may be purchased with a credit or debit card taking into  
14 consideration the monetary limit of the discretionary fund  
15 used.

16           (3) Procedures to ensure that the sheriff of his or  
17 her designee has sole access to any credit or debit card,  
18 credit or debit card numbers, access codes, or security codes.

19           (4) Procedures to keep accurate records of all  
20 purchases made with a credit or debit card which shall be  
21 periodically reviewed during required audits.

22           (5) Procedures to ensure that all credit or debit  
23 card bills are carefully reviewed by the sheriff each month to  
24 make sure that no unauthorized charges appear on the bill.

25           (6) Procedures to ensure that all credit or debit  
26 card bills are paid in full on a timely basis each month to  
27 avoid service charges, late fees, or interest payments.

1           (e) The sheriff shall select the credit or debit  
2 card provider or providers taking into consideration each of  
3 the following:

4           (1) Whether the credit or debit card issuer requires  
5 an annual fee for using the card.

6           (2) Whether the credit or debit card issuer offers  
7 rewards or rebates based upon purchases made using the  
8 account.

9           (3) What interest rates, service charges, finance  
10 charges, or late fees will be assessed in the event a bill  
11 from the credit or debit card issuer is paid late or the  
12 balance is not paid in full.

13           (4) Whether penalties or fees will be assessed  
14 against the sheriff in the event he or she decides to  
15 terminate the credit or debit card.

16           (5) Any other consideration deemed relevant by the  
17 sheriff.

18           (f) In the event the credit or debit card provides  
19 rewards or rebates based upon the use of the card, any rewards  
20 or rebates earned from the card or cards shall be deposited in  
21 the Sheriff's Discretionary Fund of Hale County.

22           Section 2. This act shall become effective  
23 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
24 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.