

# HB314 INTRODUCED



1 HB314  
2 77M4EVV-1  
3 By Representatives Lee, Rehm (N & P)  
4 RFD: Local Legislation  
5 First Read: 20-Feb-25



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to Houston County; to authorize the sheriff to establish procedures for using a credit card or debit card to make purchases pursuant to procedures provided for in this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms 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 authorized by law to be expended at the discretion of the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

(b) To provide for convenience in making purchases of tangible personal property or services approved by the sheriff, the Sheriff of Houston County may establish procedures to make certain purchases through the use of a credit card or debit card issued to the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

(c) The sheriff shall adopt written policy and procedures governing the use of a credit card or debit card,



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29 which, at a minimum, shall include each of the following:

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

32 (2) A monetary limit on the total monthly amount that  
33 may be purchased with a credit card or debit card taking into  
34 consideration the monetary limit of the discretionary fund  
35 used.

36 (3) Procedures to ensure that the sheriff, or his or  
37 her designee, has sole access to any credit card or debit  
38 card, credit card or debit card numbers, access codes, or  
39 security codes.

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

43 (5) Procedures to ensure that all credit card or debit  
44 card bills are carefully reviewed by the sheriff each month to  
45 ensure that no unauthorized charges appear on the bill.

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

49 (d) The sheriff shall select a credit card or debit  
50 card provider or providers taking into consideration each of  
51 the following:

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

54 (2) Whether the credit card or debit card issuer offers  
55 rewards or rebates based upon purchases made using the  
56 account.



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57 (3) The interest rates, service charges, finance  
58 charges, or late fees that will be assessed if a bill from the  
59 credit card or debit card issuer is paid late or the balance  
60 is not paid in full.

61 (4) Whether penalties or fees will be assessed against  
62 the sheriff if the sheriff decides to terminate the credit  
63 card or debit card.

64 (5) Any other consideration deemed relevant by the  
65 sheriff.

66 (e) If a credit card or debit card provides rewards or  
67 rebates based upon the use of the card, any rewards or rebates  
68 earned from the card or cards shall be deposited in the  
69 discretionary account of the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

70 (f) The sole purpose of this section is to provide the  
71 Sheriff of Houston County a more efficient method of making  
72 payment for authorized purchases of tangible property or  
73 services. Nothing in this section shall authorize the Sheriff  
74 of Houston County to expend funds in excess of those otherwise  
75 validly appropriated by law, nor shall anything in this  
76 section authorize the Sheriff of Houston County to establish a  
77 debt of the Houston County Commission.

78 Section 2. This act shall become effective June 1,  
79 2025.