

HB499 INTRODUCED



1 HB499
2 DG25GHT-1
3 By Representative Yarbrough (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 01-Apr-25



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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
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9 Relating to Lawrence County; to authorize the sheriff
10 to establish procedures for using a credit card or debit card
11 to make purchases provided the proper procedures are followed.
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the
14 following terms have the following meanings:

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

17 (2) DEBIT CARD. A card issued by a bank in relation to
18 a checking or savings account authorized by law to be expended
19 at the discretion of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office.

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

26 (c) The sheriff shall adopt written policy and
27 procedures governing the use of a credit card or debit card,
28 which, at a minimum shall include each of the following:



HB499 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) The interest rates, service charges, finance



HB499 INTRODUCED

57 charges, or late fees that will be assessed in the event a
58 bill from the credit card or debit card issuer is paid late or
59 the balance is not paid in full.

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

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

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

70 (f) The sole purpose of this section is to provide the
71 Sheriff of Lawrence 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 Lawrence County to expend funds in excess of those
75 otherwise validly appropriated under law. Nor shall anything
76 in this section authorize the Sheriff of Lawrence County to
77 establish a debt of the Lawrence County Commission.

78 (g) Purchases procured by the Lawrence County Sheriff's
79 Office credit card shall be paid solely from the Lawrence
80 County Sheriff's Discretionary Fund, except for expenses
81 related to travel, which may be paid from the sheriff's
82 general fund budget, established by the county commission and
83 not to exceed the appropriated line item amount established
84 for the fiscal year in accordance with the county travel



HB499 INTRODUCED

85 policy.

86 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October

87 1, 2025.