

HB502 INTRODUCED



1 HB502
2 A58T7QS-1
3 By Representative Baker (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 Escambia County; to authorize the sheriff
10 to establish procedures for using a credit card or debit card
11 to make purchases.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. (a) For the 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.

19 (b) The Sheriff of Escambia County, upon the
20 establishment of and compliance with all procedures and other
21 requirements set forth in this section, may make certain
22 purchases through the use of a credit card or debit card
23 issued to the Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

24 (c) The sheriff shall adopt written policies and
25 procedures governing the use of a credit card or debit card
26 which, at a minimum, shall include all of the following:

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



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

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

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

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

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

44 (d) The sheriff, when selecting a credit card or debit
45 card provider, shall consider all of the following factors:

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

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

51 (3) The interest rate, service charges, finance
52 charges, or late fees that may be assessed in the event a bill
53 from the credit card or debit card issuer is paid late or the
54 balance is not paid in full.

55 (4) Whether penalties or fees may be assessed against
56 the sheriff in the event he or she decides to terminate the



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57 credit card or debit card.

58 (e) In the event a credit card or debit card provides
59 rewards or rebates based upon the use of the card, any rewards
60 or rebates earned shall be deposited in the discretionary
61 account of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

62 (f) Nothing in this section shall authorize the Sheriff
63 of Escambia County to expend funds in excess of those
64 otherwise validly appropriated under law nor to establish a
65 debt of the Escambia County Commission.

66 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,
67 2025.