

## HB201 INTRODUCED



1      HB201  
2      SLZBL87-1  
3      By Representative Baker      (N & P)  
4      RFD: Local Legislation  
5      First Read: 13-Jan-26



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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.

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 use of the card, any rewards or  
60 rebates earned shall be deposited in the discretionary account  
61 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 2026.