

**HB543 ENROLLED**



1 HB543  
2 DGXZWTN-2  
3 By Representative Yarbrough (N & P)  
4 RFD: Local Legislation  
5 First Read: 03-Mar-26



## HB543 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 Relating to Lawrence County; to authorize the sheriff  
4 to establish procedures for using a credit card or debit card  
5 to make purchases provided the proper procedures are followed.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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57 (5) Any other consideration deemed relevant by the  
58 sheriff.

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

64 (f) The sole purpose of this section is to provide the  
65 Sheriff of Lawrence County a more efficient method of making  
66 payment for authorized purchases of tangible property or  
67 services. Nothing in this section shall authorize the Sheriff  
68 of Lawrence County to expend funds in excess of those  
69 otherwise validly appropriated under law. Nor shall anything  
70 in this section authorize the Sheriff of Lawrence County to  
71 establish a debt of the Lawrence County Commission.

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

80 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
81 1, 2026.

