

# HB543 INTRODUCED



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



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to Lawrence County; to authorize the sheriff to establish procedures for using a credit card or debit card to make purchases provided the proper procedures are followed.  
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 Lawrence 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 Lawrence County may establish procedures to make certain purchases through the use of a credit card or debit card issued to the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 (3) The interest rates, service charges, finance



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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



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85 policy.

86 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October

87 1, 2026.