

CF 7r0894

By: Delegate Bissett

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Local Government - Acceptance of Credit and Debit Cards**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing counties, municipal corporations, and Baltimore City to
4 accept payment of governmental charges by credit card or debit card; authorizing
5 the addition of a certain service charge, subject to a specified cap; providing that, if
6 a county, municipal corporation, or Baltimore City allows payments by credit or
7 debit cards, specified information must appear on certain invoices; defining
8 "governmental charge"; repealing a provision only authorizing payment by credit
9 card of property taxes and related charges; and generally relating to the authority of
10 local government to accept credit and debit cards.

11 BY repealing

12 Article - Tax - Property
13 Section 10-501 and the subtitle "Subtitle 5. Manner of Payment - Credit Card"
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
18 Section 1-101(a) and (b)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1996 Replacement Volume)

21 BY adding to

22 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
23 Section 9-1401 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 14. Acceptance of Credit and
24 Debit Cards"
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (1996 Replacement Volume)

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 10-501 and the subtitle "Subtitle 5. Manner of Payment -
29 Credit Card" of Article - Tax - Property of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
31 read as follows:

2

1 **Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions**

2 1-101.

3 (a) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this article the following
4 words have the meanings indicated.

5 (b) "County" means a county of the State and Baltimore City.

6 SUBTITLE 14. ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS.

7 9-1401.

8 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE" MEANS:

9 (1) PROPERTY TAXES, ANY OTHER TAX, OR ANY FEE OR CHARGE
10 COLLECTED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; OR

11 (2) ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGE COLLECTED BY A COUNTY OR
12 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES, ANY OTHER
13 TAX, OR ANY FEE OR CHARGE COLLECTED.

14 (B) (1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL
15 CORPORATION MAY ALLOW A GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE TO BE PAID BY CREDIT
16 CARD OR DEBIT CARD.

17 (2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL
18 CORPORATION SHALL DETERMINE:

19 (I) THE TYPES OF GOVERNMENTAL CHARGES THAT MAY BE PAID
20 BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD; AND

21 (II) THE TYPES OF CREDIT CARDS OR DEBIT CARDS THAT WILL BE
22 ACCEPTED.

23 (C) (1) IF A GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE IS PAID BY USE OF A CREDIT CARD
24 OR DEBIT CARD, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL
25 CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE THAT A SERVICE CHARGE IS TO BE ADDED TO THE
26 AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE TO BE PAID.

27 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE SERVICE CHARGE ASSESSED UNDER THIS
28 SUBSECTION:

29 (I) MAY NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ANY FEE THAT MAY BE
30 CHARGED TO THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH
31 USE OF THE CARD; AND

32 (II) SHALL BE DETERMINED AT THE TIME THE GOVERNMENTAL
33 CHARGE IS PAID.

34 (D) IN THOSE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS THAT ELECT TO
35 ALLOW GOVERNMENTAL CHARGES TO BE PAID BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD,
36 THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL SPECIFY ON EACH PROPERTY TAX BILL AND OTHER
37 INVOICES FOR WHICH PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD IS AUTHORIZED:

3

1 (1) THAT A CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD MAY BE USED TO PAY THE
2 GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE;

3 (2) THE TYPES OF CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS THAT MAY BE USED; AND

4 (3) WHETHER A SERVICE CHARGE WILL BE ADDED TO THE
5 GOVERNMENTAL CHARGE IF A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD IS USED.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 1997.