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**By: Anne Arundel County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 1997

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

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 or with 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"

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1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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5 Credit Card" of Article - Tax - Property of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

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

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

9 1-101.

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

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

13 SUBTITLE 14. ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS.

14 9-1401.

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

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

18 (2) ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGE COLLECTED BY A COUNTY OR  
19 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES, ANY OTHER  
20 TAX, OR ANY FEE OR CHARGE COLLECTED.

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

24 (2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL  
25 CORPORATION SHALL DETERMINE:

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

28 (II) THE TYPES OF CREDIT CARDS OR DEBIT CARDS THAT WILL BE  
29 ACCEPTED.

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

34 (2) THE AMOUNT OF THE SERVICE CHARGE ASSESSED UNDER THIS  
35 SUBSECTION:

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

4 (II) SHALL BE DETERMINED AT THE TIME THE GOVERNMENTAL  
5 CHARGE IS PAID.

6 (D) IN THOSE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS THAT ELECT TO  
7 ALLOW GOVERNMENTAL CHARGES TO BE PAID BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD,  
8 THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL SPECIFY ON OR INCLUDE NOTICE WITH EACH  
9 PROPERTY TAX BILL AND OTHER INVOICES FOR WHICH PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD  
10 OR DEBIT CARD IS AUTHORIZED:

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

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

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

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