

By: Senator(s) Chaney, Burton, Smith

To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2857
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE STATE AGENCIES TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS,
2 CHARGE CARDS, DEBIT CARDS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS FOR
3 PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT FEES, COSTS AND DEBTS PURSUANT TO POLICIES
4 ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO
5 AUTHORIZE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS,
6 CHARGE CARDS, DEBIT CARDS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS FOR
7 PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT FEES, COSTS AND DEBTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
8 POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE STATE AUDITOR; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY FEES OR
9 CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS SHALL
10 BE ASSESSED TO THE USER OF THE ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AS AN ADDITIONAL
11 CHARGE FOR PROCESSING THE ELECTRONIC PAYMENT; TO AUTHORIZE MEMBERS
12 OF COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO USE CREDIT
13 CARDS TO PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR
14 OFFICIAL DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

16 SECTION 1. The State Department of Finance and
17 Administration shall establish policies that allow the payment of
18 various fees and other accounts receivable to state agencies by
19 credit cards, charge cards, debit cards and other forms of
20 electronic payment in the discretion of the department. Any fees
21 or charges associated with the use of such electronic payments
22 shall be assessed to the user of the electronic payment as an
23 additional charge for processing the electronic payment, so that
24 the user will pay the full cost of using the electronic payment.

25 SECTION 2. The board of supervisors of any county and the
26 governing authorities of any municipality may allow the payment of
27 various taxes, fees and other accounts receivable to the county or
28 municipality by credit cards, charge cards, debit cards and other
29 forms of electronic payment, in accordance with policies
30 established by the State Auditor. Any fees or charges associated
31 with the use of such electronic payments shall be assessed to the
32 user of the electronic payment as an additional charge for

33 processing the electronic payment, so that the user will pay the
34 full cost of using the electronic payment.

35 SECTION 3. The board of supervisors of any county may
36 acquire one or more credit cards which may be used by members of
37 the board of supervisors and county employees to pay expenses
38 incurred by them when traveling in or out of the state in the
39 performance of their official duties. The chancery clerk or
40 county purchase clerk shall maintain complete records of all
41 credit card numbers and all receipts and other documents relating
42 to the use of such credit cards. The supervisors and county
43 employees shall furnish receipts for the use of such credit cards
44 each month to the chancery clerk or purchase clerk who shall
45 submit a written report monthly to the board of supervisors. The
46 report shall include an itemized list of all expenditures and use
47 of the credit cards for the month, and such expenditures may be
48 allowed for payment by the county in the same manner as other
49 items on the claims docket. The issuance of a credit card to a
50 supervisor or county employee under the provisions of this section
51 does not authorize the supervisor or county employee to use the
52 credit card to make any expenditure that is not otherwise
53 authorized by law. Any supervisor or county employee who uses the
54 credit card to make an expenditure that is not approved for
55 payment by the board shall be personally liable for the
56 expenditure and shall reimburse the county.

57 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after its passage.