

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is required by §4. 1-111 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by Chapter 98 of the 1997 Acts of Assembly, to adopt a regulation prescribing the terms and conditions under which credit or debit cards may be accepted from licensees at government stores.

No public comment was received.

The proposed regulation will allow for the acceptance of credit or debit cards from licensees for the purchase of alcoholic beverages at government stores. The current regulation allows for the acceptance of such cards from consumers, but not licensees.

Since the proposed regulation was mandated by the General Assembly, the Board has not considered whether, in its opinion, the contemplated regulation is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens or for the efficient and economical performance of an important governmental function. The Board does favor the acceptance of debit and credit cards as a convenience for its licensees.

The proposed regulation is no more burdensome or intrusive on interested parties than current regulation, and gives them additional payment options for alcoholic beverage purchases. There were no less burdensome and less intrusive alternatives identified.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has determined that the regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected.

Since the proposed regulation's terms were mandated by the General Assembly, the Board will not initiate a review and reevaluation of the regulation unless the relevant code provision is changed. The Board's policies governing use of credit and debit cards are constantly reviewed as bank terms and business realities change.

It is not anticipated that there will be any cost impact on the agency or localities to implement and enforce the proposed regulation. Credit card and debit card fees will likely be offset by higher purchases. It will affect the approximately 3,000 ABC mixed beverage licensees.