

1. 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.
2. The emergency regulation is necessary because Chapter 98 of the 1999 Acts of Assembly also requires that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board promulgate emergency regulations to implement its. The regulation is not exempt under the provisions of subdivision C4 of Section 9-6.14:4.1.
3. 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 regulations allows for the acceptance of such cards from consumers, but not licensees.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board desires to promulgate a permanent regulation to replace this emergency regulation. Such action is also required by Chapter 98 of the 1999 Acts of Assembly.