

Section VII

MERCHANT BANK CARDS

Increasing numbers of agencies that receive payments from the public are requesting approval from Treasury to allow the use of merchant cards for these payments. Examples of those utilizing this service are shoppers in the Capitol Gift Shop, purchasers of maps from the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, students paying tuition at Portland State, as well as numerous others. These agencies see acceptance of merchant cards as a way to improve service to their customers by offering an additional mechanism for payment.

The bank providing the service makes its money by charging the agency a per transaction fee or a percentage of the sales, known as the discount. The bank debits Treasury once a month for the previous month's discount total, and the Banking Section debits the agency's account.

Deposits of merchant card receipts are made electronically. Agencies are assessed a discount fee and can be assessed monthly lease fees, software fees or the cost of purchasing its own software or equipment used to transmit the information.

Bank card services are only available through Treasury. Therefore, if agencies are interested in learning more about how they might be able to use merchant cards as a payment option for their customers or clients, they should contact:

Banking Section
(503) 378-4633