

# THE BEGINNING: LEGISLATION AND BID PROCESS

- Legislation passed in 2011 requiring payments through the State Treasurer's Office
  - to be electronic and
  - to allow for a card-based disbursement system to take the place of checks for individual income tax refunds.
- Bid process through Office of State Treasurer
  - Lowest bid was from the debit card provider also used by state DHS agency and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.
  - Debit Card offering included several options for free use of the card by the taxpayer

#### INCENTIVE FOR OKLAHOMA: COST SAVINGS

- Direct Costs to issue a check: \$0.75
- Charges to contract with vendor: none
- Programming costs: minimal
- Overall annual savings projected: \$500,000

#### **ANTICIPATION: EDUCATION**

- Educated taxpayers through press releases, weekly interviews with media, agency website, income tax packets.
- Educated preparers through speaking engagements and materials prepared for their newsletters and websites.
- Educated banks and credit unions through notices from the Oklahoma State Treasurer.

#### GO LIVE: ISSUANCE

- For calendar 2013, 322,379 cards were issued in the amount of \$88.5 million dollars. So far in 2014, 190,800 cards have been issued in the amount of \$58.2 million dollars.
- Direct Deposit impact:
  - **2011** Filings Received % Direct Deposit 52.0%
  - **2012** Filings Received % Direct Deposit 70.2%
  - **2013** Filings Received % Direct Deposit 73.5%
  - **2014** Filings Received % Direct Deposit 85.9%

# TAXPAYER CONCERNS AND RESOLUTIONS

- ■Two cards mailed separately for joint returns
  - Vendor began including two cards on one carrier for the 2013 tax season
- Deceased taxpayer refunds had to be worked through the debit card provider banking rules
  - Tax Commission now issues checks for refunds if deceased box is checked on return
- Taxpayers incurring fees without being aware
  - Vendor has changed the card carrier to disclose all fees and to highlight free uses of the card

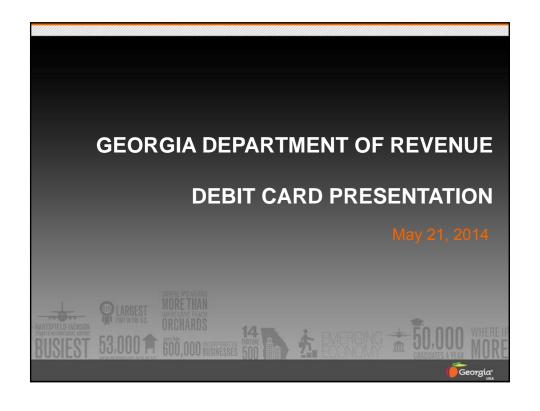
# TAXPAYER CONCERNS AND RESOLUTIONS (CON'T)

- Taxpayer does not want the card
  - Letter or phone call
- Debit card provider IVR system not callerfriendly
  - Vendor has modified system to allow quicker access to a representative

# FACTS AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

- Smallest card issued \$1.00
- Largest card issued \$175,392.00
- Average card \$260.00
- Complaints are <1% of the cards issued</p>
- Most complaints from
  - elderly
  - non-residents
  - representatives of deceased taxpayers
- Complaints in the form of
  - various returned cut-up and shredded cards
  - letters to Attorney General claiming fraud
  - phone calls to Taxpayer Assistance

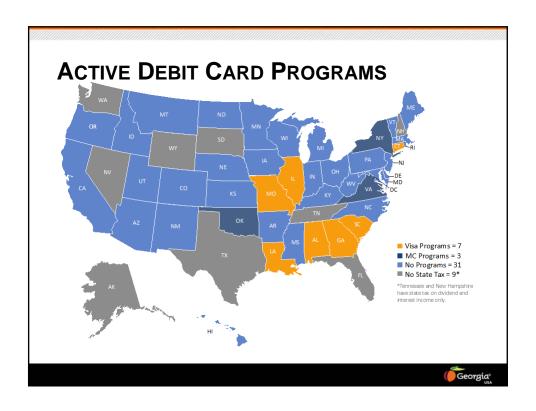
# QUESTIONS? THOUGHTS? COMMENTS?



# **BACKGROUND**

- ▶ Budget cuts drove initial decision to implement
- Goal was to reduce paper checks and lower printing and mailing costs
- Began with debit card pilot program to test taxpayer response





# **TIMELINE**

- ▶ 2011: Pilot program began
- ▶ 2012: Offered as an opt-in option
- ▶ 2013: Added comment re cost savings
- ▶ 2014: Removed paper check as an option



# **2013 INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX FORM**

Select only one option - See booklet page 13.
36a. Direct Deposit (For U.S. Accounts Only) Type: Checking Savings
36b. Debit Card

You can help eliminate \$1Million of processing costs by choosing Direct Deposit or Debit Card. If you do not select Direct Deposit or Debit Card a

paper check will be issued.



# **TIMELINE**

- ► Took dual approach
  - ▶ Offered debit cards as new refund option
  - ▶ Direct deposit added to paper returns



# PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- ► Program is voluntary
- Initially considered a phased approach to make debit cards mandatory
  - ► Year 1: opt in
  - ► Year 2: opt out
  - ► Year 3: debit card and direct deposit only
- ► Received negative feedback-kept voluntary



PURCHASE TRANSACTION FEES	
Purchase at merchants (signed or using PIN)	No Fee
Online, phone, mail purchase, or bill payments	No Fee



ATM Balance Inquiries (all ATMs)	
	lo Fee
	1.50 per ransaction
· ·	2.00 per ransaction
Declined Transaction (ATM only) N	lo Fee

OTHER SERVICE FEES	
Online, Automated, Live, or International Customer Service Inquiry	No Fee
Cash Access (Available at financial institutions that accept Visa cards) (Limited to available balance only)	No Fee for first withdrawal, \$5.00 thereafter
Online Funds Transfer	No Fee
Emergency Cash Transfer (in the U.S.)	\$15.00
Card Replacement Domestic	No fee for first replacement, \$5.00 thereafter
	( Georgia

OTHER SERVICE FEES	
Card Replacement - Express Delivery (additional charge)	\$15.00
Card Replacement (outside the U.S.)	Quote provided at time of request, as price varies by country
PIN Change Requests, and Online or Mailed Account Statements	No Fee
International Transaction Fee	2% of U.S. dollar amount
Account Closure Fee	\$5.00
	( Georgia

# **C**osts

- ▶ Program implemented at no cost to the State
- ▶ Debit card provider (Bank of America) incurs all costs to print and mail debit cards to taxpayers
- Minimal internal costs to manage debit card program to include administration and IT



#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- ▶ Initial implementation: 6 months
  - marketing strategy
  - file layout
  - joint filers
  - fee structure
- ► Annual changes: 60-90 days



# **PROGRAM ROLLOUT**

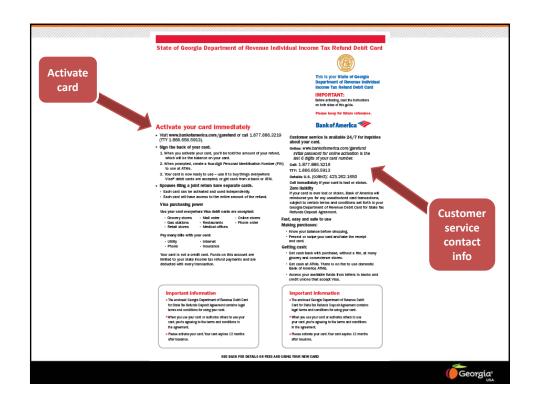
- ► Cards issued based on random zip codes
- ► Introductory letter included
  - ► Explained the program
  - ► Outlined potential fees
- ► Communicated card could be cashed at bank

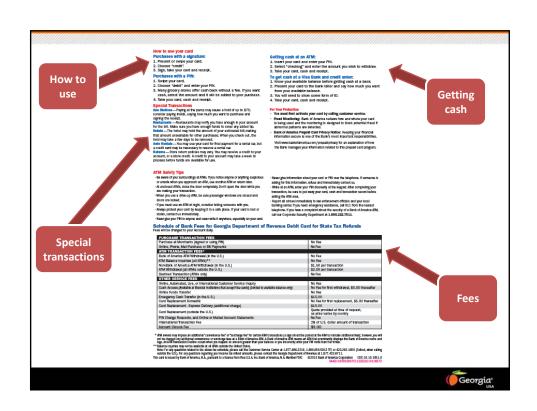


# **DEBIT CARD**









# **DEBIT CARD FEATURES**

- ► Single load
- ▶ Separate card issued to married filing jointly
- ▶ Balance refunded at end of year



# **LESSON LEARNED**

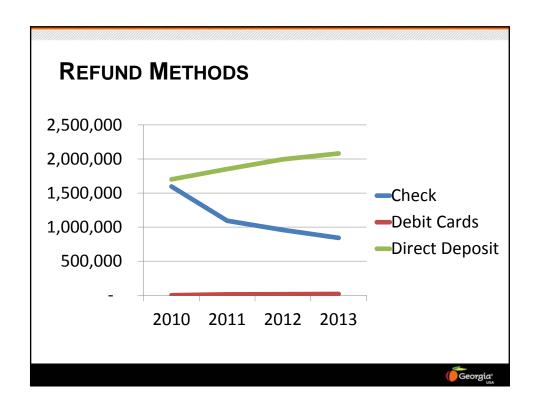
- ▶ Develop strong communication plan
- ► Get buy-in from legislators/other agencies
- ► Clearly communicate benefits
- ▶ Provide detailed specs to software vendors

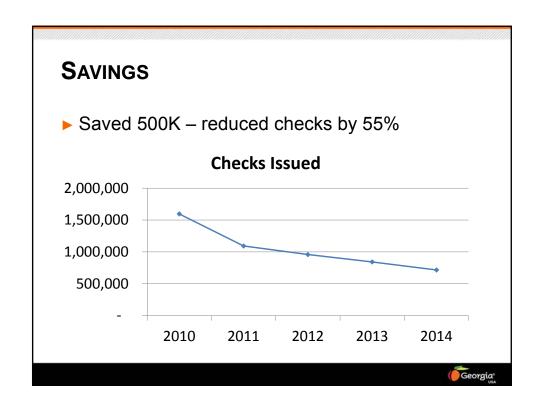


# **S**ECURITY

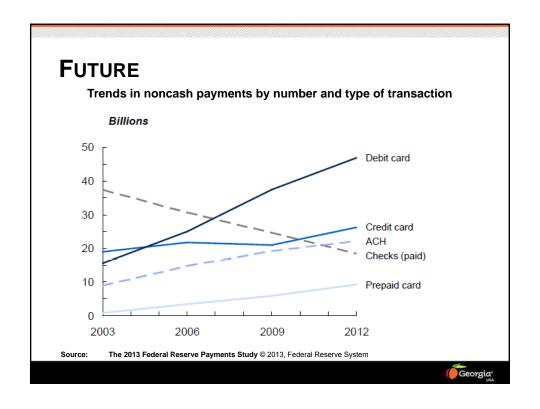
- ► More secure must activate
- ► Lower chance for identity theft
- ▶ More secure file transfer capabilities

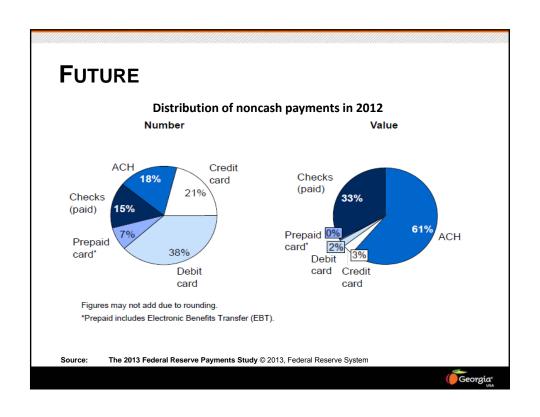






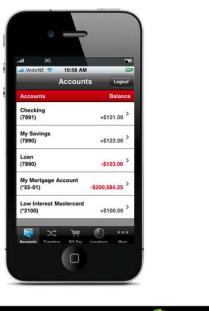






# **F**UTURE

Mobile app for checking card balances



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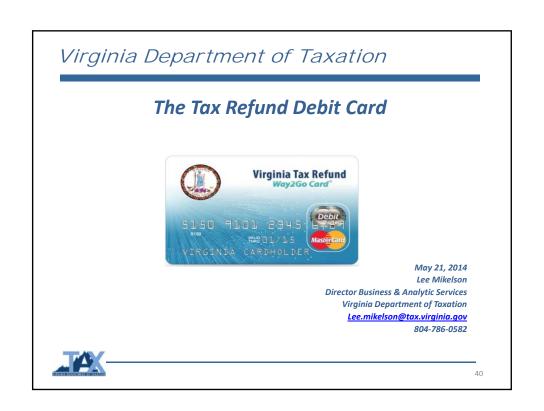
# **F**UTURE

Mobile app for using debit card on smart phone vs. physical card









- Background
- How it Works
- · Program Features
- Implementation Overview
- First Year Results
- Lessons Learned
- Going Forward



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# Virginia Department of Taxation

#### Background

- Mandated by the Virginia General Assembly in spring 2012
- In Virginia, the Department of Treasury (Treasury), which is responsible for issuing individual income tax refund checks, initiated, via a proposed budget cut, the move to the Prepaid Debit Card
- Program savings accrue to the Treasury and the Virginia Department of Taxation (Department) received a separate appropriation for systems work and customer service staffing
- Effective with taxable year 2012 tax returns, filings starting in calendar year 2013
- Taxpayers who do not elect direct deposit for their individual income tax refunds receive the Prepaid Debit Card no option for a paper check



#### How it Works in Virginia

- Taxpayers file refund returns, do not elect direct deposit, and do not meet specific exceptions
- Taxpayers' returns are processed, and each morning a file with taxpayers' demographic information is provided to card vendor
- Within 2 hours, card vendor establishes a unique card account for each taxpayer and provides information to Department while also initiating the card issuance and mailer processes
- Upon receipt of file from vendor, card account numbers are loaded into Department's system and a direct deposit file is created and delivered to agency's bank



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#### Virginia Department of Taxation

#### **Program Features**

- In 2004, Treasury entered into an agreement with a vendor (formerly ACS, now Xerox) to issue "reloadable" Prepaid Debit Cards for certain Benefit Payment Programs – those programs include Unemployment, Payroll, Child Support, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- The Tax Refund Prepaid Debit Card, a "non-reloadable" card, was added into the existing contract via an amendment and at no cost to the Commonwealth
- Card must be activated before use taxpayer calls toll-free number and enters SSN, Date of Birth, and card number and then selects a PIN (web activation also available)
- Two cards issued to married taxpayers one card for each spouse (note: both cards are linked to same card account and each card must be independently activated before use)



#### How it Works in Virginia - Exceptions

- Paper Checks are issued for specific exceptions the exception process is automated
- Exceptions include, but are not limited to:
  - Deceased taxpayers
  - Taxpayers' under age 18
  - · No birth date or birth date is invalid
  - International address or undeliverable
  - Refund exceeds maximum or is less than minimum threshold
  - Refunds partially offset via the Debt Setoff Program
  - Direct Deposit failures
  - Taxable years prior to 2012



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## Virginia Department of Taxation

## **Program Features**

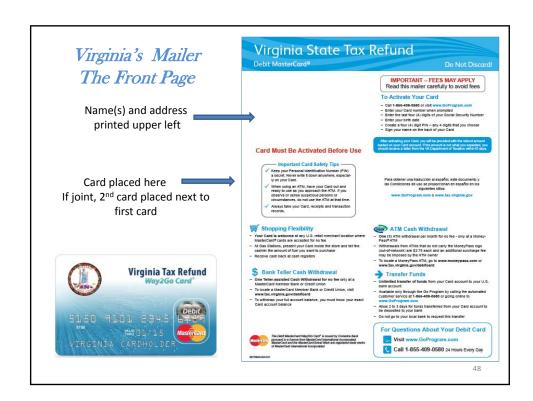
- Several "fee-free" options available to access funds:
  - One free Teller-assisted Cash Withdrawal at any MasterCard® member bank or credit union
  - One free withdrawal per month from any MoneyPass® ATM
  - Unlimited free bank transfers
  - No charge to make purchases at any U.S. retailer
  - No charge for requesting cash back at Point of Sale
- $\bullet\,$  Fees were renegotiated for  $2^{nd}$  Year a few highlights:
  - · One free bank transfer expanded to unlimited free bank transfers
  - More free IVR calls (from 2 to 5 free per month)
  - All CSR calls free (had been 2 free per month)



# **Program Features**

- For cards that have been activated, after 6 months of no activity, a monthly inactivity fee is assessed
- Vendor responsible for handling unclaimed property in accordance with state and other applicable banking regulations
- Card accounts are FDIC insured even though the accounts are not considered traditional demand deposit bank accounts
- Vendor handles undeliverable card mailers return address is a Virginia P. O.
   Box that is automatically forwarded to vendor in another state





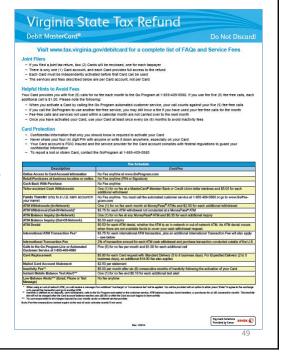
# Virginia's Mailer The Back Page

Current wording based on lessons learned from first year:

- Addresses specific questions and situations that generated calls and problems
- Toned down marketing promotion of the vendor's program and refocused wording on educating the taxpayers
- Reworded mailer and fee explanations using simple language and eliminating industry lingo

Mailer also includes a Terms of Use insert

Note: Refund amount not included in Mailer. Amount provided at activation for security.



## Virginia Department of Taxation

# Implementation Overview

- Major Project divided into 2 parts:
  - Systems, Processes, and Procedures; and
  - Communications
- 7+ months to implement, involving staff from across the agency



#### Implementation Overview - Systems

- Forms & Instructions updated
- Numerous systems required enhancement:
  - · changes to data capture and efile systems
  - changes to main accounting systems systematic application of business rules
  - · development of new file transfer processes, and
  - development of risk mitigation strategies
- Customer Services staff trained and scripted, including escalation process
- · Extensive testing, including end-to-end with vendor



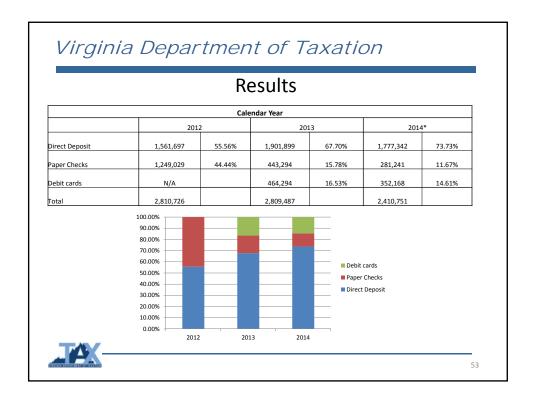
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## Virginia Department of Taxation

Implementation Overview – Communications

- Website Updates extensive information including videos
- Presentations Tax Preparation Associations, CPAs, etc
- Email notifications via the agency's "eAlerts" list server to individuals, tax preparers, and software companies
- Emails to Banking Industry\* and to special interest groups, such as AARP, Military Organizations, VFW, and ARC – <u>extensive outreach</u>
- Mailer to General Assembly members
- · Public Service Announcements, Media notifications, and notifications to NACTP members
- Updates to forms and instructions
- \* Treasury responsible for all interaction with banks and credit unions





#### Results - Common Complaints

- Taxpayer does not want card, did not realize would receive. Frequently, the returns were prepared by tax preparers, who failed to notify taxpayers.
- Taxpayer incurs fees because of confusing IVR menu, or using out-of-network ATMs etc.
- Taxpayer attempts to use card that has not been activated –
  with joint taxpayers, may activate one card, and then try to use
  the other card.



# Lessons Learned Understand the Fees

If the fee fee structure is "ala cart", taxpayers may have to pay a fee for a service in order to access a fee-free service.

- If a bank transfer is fee-free, the telephone call to initiate the transfer may trigger a fee
- If telephone calls to speak directly with a Customer Services Representative are fee-free, the call into the IVR may still trigger a fee





\*\$2 cup fee



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## Virginia Department of Taxation

# Lessons Learned Be precise advising Taxpayers

For example, Virginia's program provides for one free Teller assisted cash withdrawal and for unlimited free bank transfers

This does NOT mean that the taxpayer can take his card to a Teller and request a free bank transfer.

- Bank transfers must be initiated through the card vendor to be fee-free
- A bank transfer initiated by the taxpayer's bank will usually include fees and could take several days to complete – while confusing the taxpayer who now has a \$0 card balance but no money in his bank account.

And, if the card has not been activated, nothing is going to work!





#### **More Lessons Learned**

#### • Test your vendor:

- · Make sure the IVR menu is not confusing
  - Our taxpayers had difficulty locating the selection for bank transfer as it was available under the selection for "press X for special services"
  - Taxpayers had to know to run through IVR menu twice before selection to speak to a CSR would be presented
- Visit the vendor's website to ensure it is user friendly
- Check all text for accuracy and to ensure it is tailored to your program (phone numbers, references to reloadable cards and your card is not reloadable etc.)
- Don't take for granted that the vendor will have everything working correctly and customized correctly to support your program



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## Virginia Department of Taxation

#### **More Lessons Learned**

- If your card program is administered by a separate agency, make sure that roles and responsibilities are clearly delineate (MOU between Department and Treasury)
- Be prepared for close media scrutiny even if only one taxpayer has a problem, that could result in a front page story
- Understand your vendor's "recall process" and have procedures in place
- Have exception procedures worked out in advance if your program is mandatory, can you easily issue a paper check if required? If a taxpayer asks hard questions, are you prepared to respond?
- Ensure ongoing communications with banks and credit unions not all messages reach every Teller in every bank branch

#### **Going Forward**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year proceeding smoothly, fewer complaints and more taxpayers moving to direct deposit
- To continue into 2015, Program must be approved via the 2014 2016 Appropriations Act (the Budget)
  - Budget not yet approved
  - Includes amendment to eliminate the Debit Card outcome unknown until final Budget approved



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# Debit Card Refund Program

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# Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

- Implemented as a soft launch pilot in 2013 for TY2012.
- By design, this first year was limited to online IL-1040 filers only using the Department's MyTaxIllinois filing option.
- Illinois' program is strictly voluntary. It was developed as an alternative refund method in addition to the existing direct deposit and paper check options.
- A primary motivation behind the Illinois debit card program
  was to allow "unbanked" taxpayers receiving a refund to avoid
  the elevated fees associated with cashing a paper check.
- A secondary motivation behind the Illinois debit card program was to help decrease the state expenditure required for the printing of paper refund checks.



# Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

- Program Features:
  - One account is assigned for each refund issued.
  - Married Filing Joint filers receive two cards for each spouse. Both cards access the same account.
  - Taxpayers can activate their card(s) either by going to Ucard.Chase.com or by calling an Illinois specific toll free number.
  - Taxpayers need SSN and card number to activate their cards.



# Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

- Expanded in 2014 to include all filing methods:
  - E-Filing
    - Tax Professionals
    - Third Party Software
    - MyTax.Illinois.gov
  - Paper including 2-D
- TY2012 funded: \$672,432.84 representing 4,385 cards issued.
- TY2013 funded: \$3.9 million representing 18,000 cards and counting.
- 82.5% of Illinois taxpayers filing electronically and receiving a refund opt for direct deposit with 17.5% still wish to receive a paper check.

## Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

Bank Fees—Is Free Really Free?

TYPE OF TRANSACTION	BANK FEE
ATMs	
Chase ATM	None
Other or non-Chase ATM	No fee from Chase (first 3 times) May incur a surcharge from ATM owner
International ATM Cash Withdrawal	\$3.00 each
Feller Assisted Cash Advance (accepting VISA)	
Chase Bank	None
Other Banks	None
On-line Transfer to Any U.S. Bank (checking/savings)	
Chase Bank	None
Other Banks	None
Purchases at Retail Locations (across the U.S)	Unlimited free
Cash back with purchase	Unlimited free
Purchases at Retail Locations (outside the U.S.)	3% of the transaction
Balance Inquiry	
On-line at <u>ucard.chase.com</u>	No
Chase ATM	1 free, then \$0.50 ea.
Other ATMs	1 free, then \$0.50 ea.

# Multi-State Debit Card ~Fees Charged~

CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b Xerox now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
Options - Efile	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check
Options - Paper Returns	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit or Debit Card	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check*	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check	Charle	Direct Deposit, Debit Card, or Paper Check
Exceptions		Foreign Addresses or Banks or Audit Adjustments - defaults to paper check			Maximum on Debit Card, DD rejects default to paper check. Also, foreign addresses and banks default to paper check.**			Foreign Addresses and over \$5000.00 default to paper check.
Maximum?	Yes	No	\$10,000	Yes - TBD	\$6,999			\$5,000.00
Legislation	Yes	Yes	No	No	No		No	No

CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b XEROX now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
Account Setup/Card Issuance	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Account Closure/Termination	\$0.00	Free		\$5.00	Free	Free	\$5.00	\$0.00
Account Inactivity	\$5.00 Per month after 6 months of inactivity	\$1.50 per month after 60 days of inactivity	\$1.00 per month after 1 year of inactivity	No fee	No fee	No fee	No fee	\$1.50 per month after 365 days of inactivity.
Card Replacement	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$5.00	Free	Free	1 free/\$5.00 thereafter	1 free/\$7.50 thereafter
Reissue debit card after expiration date	\$0.00			Free	Free	Free	Free	Escheatment Rules Apply
Expedited Card Replacement	\$18.00			\$15.00	Free	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

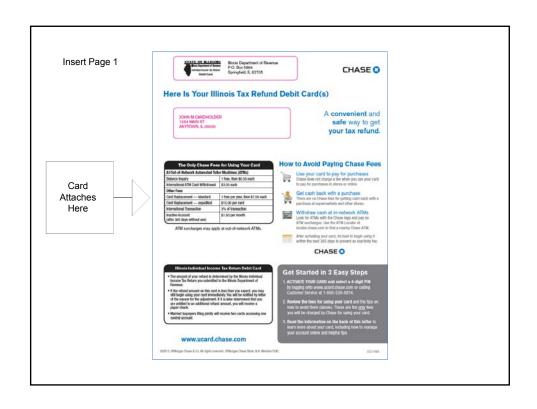
CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b XEROX now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
Pin-based POS Transaction	Free	Free		Free where VISA accepted	Free	Free	Free where VISA accepted	Free
Signature-based POS Transaction	Free	Free		Free where VISA accepted	Free	Free	Free where VISA accepted	Free
Online/Phone/Mail Purchase or Bill Payments	\$0.00			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
POS Denial	Free	Free		Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Cash back at POS	Free	Free		Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
POS Daily Transaction Limit	No POS limit			No POS Limit	No POS Limit	No POS Limit	No POS Limit	No POS Limit

CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b XEROX now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
In Network-ATM Balance Inquiries	1 free per deposit; \$.35 thereafter	1 free per deposit; \$.50 thereafter	Free at Chase and Peoples ATMs	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Out of Network-ATM Balance Inquiries	\$.50 per inquiry + ATM fee	\$.50 per inquiry + ATM fee		No Fee except ATM fee	Varies	No Fee except ATM fee	Free	Free
in Network-ATM Cash Withdrawals	1 Free per deposit; \$2.50 thereafter	Free	Free at Chase and Peoples ATMs - 3 Free and then \$1.50 at other ATMs	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Out of Network-ATM Cash Withdrawals	\$3.75 + ATM fee	\$1.25 + ATM fee		\$2.00 + ATM fee	1 no-fee withdrawal at non Chase ATMs/other surcharges may apply	\$1.00 + ATM fee	\$2.50 + ATM fee	No service fees from JPMChase for the first three withdrawals, but may incur ATM owner surcharge.
International ATM Cash Withdrawals	\$3.75 + ATM fee			\$2.50 + ATM fee	1 no-fee withdrawal at non Chase ATMs/other surcharges may apply	\$1.00 + ATM fee	\$2.50 + ATM fee	\$3.00 each
ATM Denial	\$.50 per denial	\$.50 per denial		\$0.75	Free at all ATMs	Free at all ATMs	Free at all ATMs	
ATM Daily Withdrawal Limits	Limits may apply	No	\$800, and card cannot be used at gas pumps	No	\$7500 - prior to setting of card maximum			No

CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b XEROX now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
Customer Service Representative Inquiry	Free			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Customer Service Calls to IVR	5 calls Free per deposit; \$1.00 thereafter			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Website Balance Inquiry	Unlimited Free	Free		Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
IVR Funds Transfer	free			Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
IVR Balance Inquiry				Free	Free	Free	Free	Not Available
Online Funds Transfer	free		Free to a Chase account, \$0.75 any other account	Free	Was \$0.75 - changed to free	Free	Free	Not Available
Emergency Cash Transfer (Domestic)	Not available			\$15.00	Not Available	Not Available	\$15.00	Not Available
Bank Branch Teller Cash Withdrawal	One free per deposit at any Master Card member bank or credit union; \$5.00 thereafter	One free per deposit at any Master Card member bank, \$2.00 thereafter	Free at any bank accepting Visa Cards	1st free at banks accepting Visa Cards, \$5.00 thereafter	Free at any bank accepting Visa Cards	1st free at banks accepting Master Card, \$1.00 thereafter		Free at banks accepting VISA

CARDHOLDER FEES	VIRGINIA (XEROX)	OKLAHOMA (ACS s/b XEROX now)	Connecticut (JPM/Chase)	GEORGIA (BOA)	LOUISIANA (JPM/Chase)	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA (BOA)	ILLINOIS (JPM/Chase)
Monthly Statement-Mailed	\$2.50			Free	Free	Free	Free	Not Available
Monthly Statement-Internet Access	\$0.00			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Pin Change Requests	\$0.00			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Reprint of Monthly Mailed Statements	\$2.50			Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Low Balance Alerts	Free			Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Instant Mobile Balance Alert	1 free +\$.10 thereafter	1 free per deposit; \$.10 thereafter		Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
International Transaction Fee	2% of transaction amount			Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Insufficient Funds Charge	\$0.00			n/a (single load card)	n/a (single load card)	n/a (single load card)	n/a (single load card)	n/a (single load card)
Account Research	\$0.00			Free	Free	Free	Free	Free









# Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

- Efforts to minimize fraud and other security:
  - Illinois only offers a single load debit card.
  - Refund debit card issuance is limited to refunds less than \$5000.00.
  - IL-1040 filers using an address outside of the USA and its protectorates are not allowed to participate (US military and diplomatic installations excluded).



# Illinois Debit Card Refund Program

- · Lessons Learned:
  - Don't attempt to reinvent the wheel. Propose a gradual implementation if you have the option.
  - Learn from your colleagues in other states who have researched and/or implemented their own programs.
  - Don't operate in stealth mode. Communicate with your partners—vendors, tax professionals, software community and taxpayer organizations.
  - Allow your agency enough lead time to begin the procurement, development and testing processes to ensure a successful implementation for the targeted tax season. Remember that this is a highly visible undertaking.