From: Peggy Rothstein

Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Mar 29, 2009

Federal Reserve Board Email comments

Dear Email comments,

My bank, Bank of America, does not deny any check or debit card transaction that exceeds the limit of the balance in my checking account. I am charged $35.00 for each transaction that takes my account into the red, be it $2.00 or $200.00. I''ve been promised deposits into my checking account by a certain day by other financial institutions that did NOT occur as promised. I made promises or payments to others as a result of the expected deposit and thus was charged the exhorbitant fees. You cannot get the bank to remove any of the fees especially if you previously had an overdraft.

If banks are going to be allowed to approve a transaction that exceeds my balance, I am willing to consider:
1) banks waive fees for "x" amount of days - say 3 to 5 days (anticipating that the individual will be making a deposit in the very near future). Certainly with this situation, the banks should only allow daily overdrafts up to a limited amount of dollars. The overdraft fees, when charged if the individual does not deposit enough funds within the allowed time, should be equitable and reasonable based upon the amount of the individual overdraft (a $5.00 overdraft should not cost what a $500.00 overdraft costs).
2) banks charge an equitable and reasonable once daily overdraft fee.

I say I am willing to consider the above because I know that banks will be allowed to continue and bad practices or procedures as they have been allowed in the past. One of the main reasons our economy is unstable and sinking is because of a lot of bad business practices by banks.
What I would truly like to see is the following:
Banks make a lot of money off of the combined investment of all the cash sitting in their customer''s accounts. If they are going to allow overdrafts, they should absorb the fees from the money they have made from investing the money in my account when I have a positive balance. Allowing an overdraft transaction (which impliciting implies that the bank thinks it is ok for a customer to overdraw their account) and then punishing the customer for it is bad business practice.
I would also like to see legislation that:

1) Requires banks get my permission first before covering ATM and debit transactions ("opt-in" overdraft service).
2) Stops banks from charging fees for an overdraft service I didn''t sign up for.
3) Gives me the right to choose the type of transactions that may trigger fees (such as ATM withdrawals vs. writing a check).
It''s obvious, from the financial state of most banks these days, that

whoever is running them didn''t go to business school and doesn''t know what they are doing. Punishing the average consumer when a business isn''t being run properly in the first place is ridiculous. Divide some of their salaries between all our checking accounts and I''ll bet no one would ever overdraw again.

Please allow me the chance to opt-in to overdraft services. This is the only way that I will truly feel protected.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peggy Rothstein