

From: Jessica H.
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Docket No. R-1343

I'll put this in simplest terms.

Overdraft fees:

Banks say: We make overdraft fees so you have money if you need it. For example, if you are out at dinner, you don't want your card to decline.

I say: I have been hit with overdraft fees for not having enough money in my checking out, while at the same time having thousands in my savings account. There is no reason a bank can't take the difference from a difference account, if funds are available. They choose not to because a fee is income. I also do not have the choice to opt out and say, "Decline my card if the funds are not available, since if I do not have the money to make the purchase, I definitely do not have the money to pay an extra \$35.

Banks can change overdraft fees if they wish, but they need to make it upfront and clear that I have the right to let my card get declined. There are other ways of getting funds that aren't going to unknowingly cost me an extra \$35.

The order of debits and credits:

Banks clear charges largest to smallest, and with debits before credits.

In college, I had a friend paying \$35 in charges plus \$35 per day with a bank account in the black. She didn't have much money, but her account never would have went into the red if the bank had cleared her debits and credits in the order they were received. It took her over a week to get out of the red, leading to hundreds of dollars in fees she received for foolishly trusting a bank to handle her transactions appropriately.

This has happened to me, too, as I keep most of my money in savings to maximize my interest earnings. My paycheck and rent check came in on the same day. I had enough money in my account, but debits clear before credits, so I went below zero. If I didn't have an online banking account I check almost daily, I could have easily paid \$100+ in fees.

Consumer protection is so rare. While banks take taxpayer money to stay in business, they consistently refuse to open credit lines. Do not let them take more money through unconscionable, abusive actions.

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