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Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

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Comments:

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Proposal: Regulation E - Electronic Fund Transfers  
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Comments:

First, consumers should be told at the time of purchase if funds are not available and should be given the option to cancel the transaction. Second, consumers should be able to opt in by choice, not be automatically enrolled in overdraft, when an account is open. Third, there must be some way to limit these exhorbitant fees. Bank of America charges \$35 for each overdraft, and where they used to allow a maximum of five per day -- up to \$175 per day in overdraft fees -- the bank's new policy is ten per day. In other words, they are legally permitted to charge up to \$350 per day in overdraft fees!! This is insane! This policy applies if the overdraft amount is over only \$2. That means if a customer believes a check has been deposited or funds have cleared but he is off by a day or two, he could bounce ten items for as little as \$2.01 each and pay \$350 for borrowing \$20.20 from the bank for a single day! And then it could happen again the next day and the next without a monthly limit. Even though it's likely that the customer is overdrawn by more than this minimal amount and that he'd stop purchases upon learning of the situation, many times one isn't home to check one's bank account balance on-line before numerous unintended overdrafts can occur. Before I left Bank of America for mostly this reason, I had personally been reamed over and over again for similarly small amounts. The bank policy used to be to float debits over a weekend if the money was in thte account by the time it posted, but then they changed the policy, and like dominoes, any built-in flexibility or dafeguards were gone. People who trigger these charges can LEAST afford them. That the banks have got away with it for so long is shameful and it must stop. Therefore, in addition to the options of canceling the purchase AND of opting in or out when the account is open, I also propose that overdraft fees be capped at a much lower, less usurious \$10 each and that no more than three to five per day be permitted. There should also be a monthly cap of, say ten transactions. Further, banks should have to place an automatic phone call, text message, and or Email message to the customer when the account hits a low "trigger" amount chosen by the customer. I have seethed about these charges for years; PLEASE put these robber barons back in their places! Thank you,