

From: Janee E. Connor  
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

---

Comments:

I am writing to offer my opinion on proposed changes to Regulation E, regarding overdraft protection on ATM and Debit card purchases. I would like to see the adoption of regulations that institutions obtain customers' permission to provide overdraft protection on these, and elimination of the automatic fees that are incurred when the protection is needed. As the mother of two sons college age and young adult, I've had to watch helplessly while one after the other lost significant money to overdraft fees on their debit cards. About 4 years ago, the bank ruthlessly drained my older boy's account while he continued to use his card, unaware that there was no money left to cover his purchases. He would have learned his lesson much faster and stopped buying what he had no money in his account to pay for (he had paychecks he "hadn't got around to deposit" - and once deposited, the money disappeared to cover the fees!) if the bank has simply declined his card at the point of purchase as soon as he would have been overdrawn. When he finally made the trip into the bank to get some help with the situation, he was advised to monitor his account online, and refunded a very small portion of the fees that had been charged.

The younger son, although warned about this possibility, still experienced a similar situation just a few months ago during his first semester away at college, incurring 2 overdraft fees in a week before he became aware of how low his checking account was. And these charges were assessed despite the fact that there was a balance in his linked savings, which were also automatically transferred to cover the purchases. Because of what we went through with the older boy, we were able to monitor the situation and help him fix it before it got too out of hand.

But I feel strongly that this is yet another way our financial institutions are able to gouge our young people, who are trying to stay out of debt by avoiding credit cards and their pitfalls.

Please pass regulations that require institutions to have customers' permission before providing overdraft protection, and stop the automatic deduction of fees for such overdraft protection. The customer should at least be aware of the money that can be lost in these situations.

Thank you.

Jane E. Connor