

From: Richard Mollot, Montclair, NJ

Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Jan 27, 2009

Federal Reserve Board Email comments

Dear Email comments,

I am very concerned about this issue and the over relaxing of consumer protection rules. We have had years in which consumers have gotten the worst end of the stick: higher allowed interest rates, fees all over the place for ATM usage, exorbitant fees for other transactions and now we are bailing out the banks? The public has really gotten screwed and it is clear that our policy makers have made it possible. I urge you to change the tide. I have had a checking account for 13 years with Citibank. When I opened the account I was told that I was REQUIRED to apply for overdraft protection. This would charge an 18% fee to cover any overdrafts, with no other charges.

Over the years I have frequently used the protection, which (though it has a high interest rate) allows me to schedule other payments over the course of the month without worrying about a check bouncing. Then a couple of months ago, in a phone call with Citibank customer service, the agent mentioned that I was occurring a \$10 fee for every day that I made use of the overdraft, in addition the the interest?! This was news to me. They are also, apparently, rounding up such overdrafts.

This is supposedly to help prevent incurring another charge for another overdraft but, of course, one is automatically paying the high interest rate, whether or not one needs that money. This is truly outrageous. It is time that our elected officials protect us, the citizen and consumer.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Mollot
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