

From: Bill Holt, Austin, TX
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

Comments:

Feb 19, 2009

Federal Reserve Board Email comments

Dear Email comments,

Banks' approach to overdraft fees is antiquated at best and usurious at worst. High fees for overdrawn checks might have made sense as a deterrent when paper checks were the norm and it took days to process funds transfers and figure availability. But they make little sense for ATM transactions and Debit Card transactions where the available balance on your account can be determined before the transaction.

We should have the right to not have the bank cover us for overdraft fees. One innovative way to deal with ATM and Debit card transactions is to inform the account holder when their charge will exceed available funds and let them reduce the charged amount to what's available. At the very least, banks should be required to get the account holder's permission before covering ATM and debit transactions, account terms and conditions should be the same whether or not an account holder chooses to pay overdraft fees, and account holders should have the flexibility to choose which types of transactions should be covered.

The current average charge of \$34 in fees for an average \$17 overdraft is an outrageous 200% revenue generator for the banks. It's high time for reform.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Holt
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