

From: t0079d@hushmail.com  
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 4:48 PM  
To: Overdraft Comments  
Subject: Overdraft Comments

Regulation does not lead to greater consumer understanding or wiser consumer choices. Where parents, teachers, and pastors fail, the FDIC shall not succeed in educating consumers. The FDIC should just cancel this guidance and stick to what it does best, which is...what, anyway? I thought they just provided some kind of pseudo-federal-government insurance on the money we keep in the bank.

Next the FDIC will claim that consumers were overwhelmingly supportive of the guidance. People who are mad they got charged \$39 one time, or many times, have written that they support any method of preventing banks from earning fees. Most did not have the automatic overdraft protection programs, and are irrelevant letters. Also, it is evident that many people have not understood (or have misread) the FDIC guidance. Comments included complaints about ATM balance fees or the fee to use strange or far-off ATMs. Comments unrelated to the guidance should be posted at the end, in a special section called Comments about Unrelated Matters. I don't think the FDIC has really reached the public in general. Most of these comment letters probably resulted from some consumer agency sending around a chain letter to ask people to write to the FDIC about what they think of overdraft fees. That's why so many of the comment letters have the same date, and are from the same state. That's not what this should have been about. For transparency, I urge the FDIC to list the state of origin of its comment letters: I see Maryland A LOT.

Though the FDIC will surely forge ahead without taking any negative feedback into consideration, publishing the guidance in substantially unaltered form, I do not think consumers as a whole have expressed agreement with the FDIC's letter. I see two main types of comment letters:

1. Comments from people who overdrew their accounts and believe they did not deserve to pay a penalty (an overdraft fee which they sometimes refer to as "highway robbery"...I imagine these same people would say that long distance charges on their phone bill, for calls they made, are likewise "highway robbery") and
2. Comments from people who have not overdrawn and who firmly believe it is the responsibility of the individual to prevent overdrafts (through a method commonly known as "math"). Personal responsibility – including balancing your checkbook after every transaction- is the only way to control or prevent overdrafts.

I for one do not want to pay for the mistakes of those who feel they don't have to monitor what they spend or that they can overdraw their accounts over and over and then just switch banks. Things like this will lead to the end of free checking. Banks are businesses, not public service providers. Do you want to support banks with your taxes, so that banks can do everything for free? I sure don't! Banks in the United States operate under a capitalist system, not socialist or communist. Is the FDIC trying to undermine and take over the banks? How many did they take over in the past 2 years? 150? Take a look at Mexico (1982) and the former Soviet Union (1918), and tell me how well you think that will go. Nationalizing the banks is a great idea – if you like communism and hate freedom.

Anonymous