#### www.pewtrusts.org/safechecking

# **STILL RISKY: CHECKING ACCOUNTS IN WASHINGTON**

Checking accounts, the most widely used financial product in America, contain hidden risks that can harm consumers. Five of the 12 largest banks nationwide offer checking accounts in Washington and hold 51 percent of all deposits in the state.<sup>1</sup> Here's what consumers in Washington may be paying.

### **Dozens of Fees and Confusing Terms are Buried in Long, Complicated Disclosures**



### **Accounts are Subject to Monthly Fees**



\*These figures are medians.

<sup>1</sup> In its recent report, *Still Risky: An Update on the Safety and Transparency of Checking Accounts*, the Pew Safe Checking in the Electronic Age Project investigated checking accounts advertised online in October 2011 by the 12 largest U.S. banks, which hold over 46 percent of U.S. deposit volume. The data here reflect the median disclosed costs of banking services at the five banks in the study that had branches in Washington and that indicated a presence in the state on their disclosure forms from October 2011. As of June 30, 2011, these banks held 51 percent of all deposits in the state, according to the FDIC.

<sup>2</sup> Pew identified 12 fees that are common to most accounts, as reflected in its model checking account disclosure box at *www.pewtrusts.org/safechecking.* 

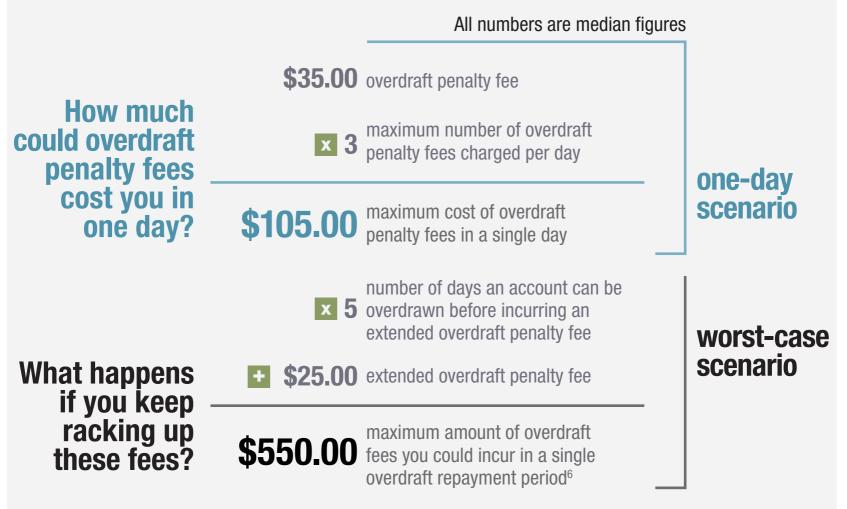


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## **Overdraft Penalty Fees**



\*These figures are medians.

- <sup>3</sup> A fee charged per overdraft covered by an advance from the bank.
- <sup>4</sup> A fee charged if an account remains overdrawn for more than a specified number of days.

<sup>5</sup> A fee charged per overdraft covered by a transfer from a linked savings account, line of credit, or credit card.
<sup>6</sup> The period of time between when an overdraft (and overdraft penalty fee) is first incurred and when an extended overdraft

penalty fee for that overdraft is incurred.