STILL RISKY: CHECKING ACCOUNTS IN MONTANA

Checking accounts, the most widely used financial product in America, contain hidden risks that can harm consumers. Two of the 12 largest banks nationwide offer checking accounts in Montana and hold 21 percent of all deposits in the state.1 Here's what consumers in Montana may be paying.

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



12 most common fees²

Accounts are Subject to Monthly Fees

documents



^{*}These figures are medians.

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



¹ 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 two banks in the study that had branches in Montana and that indicated a presence in the state on their disclosure forms from October 2011. As of June 30, 2011, these banks held 21 percent of all deposits in the state, according to the FDIC.

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Cost of Overdraft Fees

overdraft penalty fee³

extended overdraft penalty fee⁴

\$33.00* **\$25.00***

overdraft transfer fee⁵

\$10.00°

Overdraft Penalty Fees

All numbers are median figures

How much could overdraft penalty fees cost you in one day?

\$33.00 overdraft penalty fee

maximum number of overdraft penalty fees charged per day

\$99.00

maximum cost of overdraft penalty fees in a single day

number of days an account can be **8** overdrawn before incurring an extended overdraft penalty fee

What happens if you keep racking up these fees?

\$25.00 extended overdraft penalty fee

maximum amount of overdraft \$817.00 fees you could incur in a single overdraft repayment period⁶

one-day scenario

worst-case scenario

⁶ 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.



^{*}These figures are medians.

³ A fee charged per overdraft covered by an advance from the bank.

⁴ A fee charged if an account remains overdrawn for more than a specified number of days.

⁵ A fee charged per overdraft covered by a transfer from a linked savings account, line of credit, or credit card.