

From: Darren & Kim Washington  
Subject: Electronic Fund Transfers

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Comments:

I am writing to express my pleasure that someone is finally reining in the gift card thieves masquerading as merchants. However, while I am pleased to know legislation is in the works to address utilization fees; balance inquiry fees; and cards that expire, it is my sincere hope that all of these things will be eliminated in their totality, versus held off for 12 months of non-use. These shark-like merchants are receiving CASH, which does not expire. ever. Why shouldn't the gift card have the same functionality? It is bad enough that the merchant is allowed to charge consumers to purchase a gift card, something I would also like to see banned, but then to be given the green light to charge utilization fees; balance inquiry fees; expire the cards after any period of inactivity is unfair to the consumer. I recently had a Mall gift card of \$30 only equate to \$11.61 because I had been holding it until I saw something at the Mall, one which I do not frequent often. I was angered and embarrassed because I THOUGHT it was \$30, then the value was furthermore reduced because I had to call and inquire as to why the card was only \$11.61; thus causing me to incur a balance inquiry fee.

Lawmakers, make this law work for the consumers! Eliminate utilization fees; balance inquiry fees; and cards that expire! While you are at it, eliminate charges to purchase these cards, too!

Thank you for your time, consideration, and attention to this predatory matter!

Kim Washington