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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that customers have the right to immediately close any account at any insured depository institutions on demand, without cost to the consumer, that consumers receive any balance in their account immediately, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that customers have the right to immediately close any account at any insured depository institutions on demand, without cost to the consumer, that consumers receive any balance in their account immediately, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Freedom and Mobility
5 in Consumer Banking Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS.**

2 The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811
3 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following
4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 51. RIGHT TO CLOSE PERSONAL CHECKING AND SAV-**
6 **INGS ACCOUNTS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An insured depository institution
8 may not—

9 “(1) prohibit any person from closing a check-
10 ing or savings account, regardless of whether the
11 balance in the account is positive, zero, or negative;
12 or

13 “(2) charge any fee to close any such account.

14 “(b) TIME LIMIT.— An account at any insured de-
15 pository institution shall be closed by the institution not
16 later than 48 hours after receiving a request from the cus-
17 tomer to close the account.

18 “(c) METHODS OF REQUESTING CLOSURE OF AN AC-
19 COUNT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any accountholder of an
21 account at an insured depository institution may re-
22 quest that the account be closed in person, over the
23 phone, or by other electronic or remote means, as
24 may be prescribed by regulation.

25 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR LARGE ACCOUNTS.—Not-
26 withstanding paragraph (1), any insured depository

1 institution may require an accountholder of an ac-
2 count which has an outstanding balance of \$25,000
3 or more on deposit at the depository institution to
4 close the account in person, to the extent the depository
5 institution has provided written notice of such
6 requirement to the account holder at any time prior
7 to receiving a request from the accountholder to
8 close the account.

9 “(d) REPAYMENT OF BALANCES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any balance in an account
11 at an insured depository institution that is closed by
12 the institution pursuant to a request by the
13 accountholder shall repaid to the accountholder in
14 accordance with the following requirements:

15 “(A) IN PERSON.—If the request is made
16 in person, the total amount of funds on deposit
17 in the account shall be paid to the
18 accountholder at the time the request is made
19 at the consumer’s option and without a fee, by
20 certified check provided to the consumer at the
21 time of the request, by electronic fund transfer
22 executed on that business day to an account
23 designated by the consumer, or by any other
24 means offered by the financial institution if re-
25 quested by the consumer.

1 “(B) REQUEST MADE BY OTHER MEANS.—

2 If the request is made over the phone, or by
3 other electronic or remote means, the total
4 amount of funds on deposit in the account shall
5 promptly be remitted by the institution to the
6 accountholder at the consumer’s option and
7 without a fee, by certified check issued on the
8 business day on which the request is received,
9 by electronic fund transfer executed on that
10 business day to an account designated by the
11 consumer, or by any other means offered by the
12 financial institution if requested by the con-
13 sumer.

14 “(2) TIME LIMIT.—In any case, the payment by
15 an insured depository institution of the total amount
16 of funds on deposit in an account at the institution
17 which the accountholder has requested be closed
18 shall be remitted to the accountholder before the end
19 of the 3 business day period beginning when the
20 accountholder submits such request.

21 “(e) PROHIBITION ON ANY FEES OR CHARGES
22 AFTER REQUEST TO CLOSE.—No insured depository in-
23 stitution may impose any fees or charges on any deposit
24 account at such institution after receiving a request in ac-
25 cordance with subsection (c) to close the account.

1 “(f) PROHIBITION ON REOPENING ACCOUNT TO
2 MAKE SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—No insured depository
3 institution may reopen an account that the consumer has
4 requested be closed in accordance with subsection (c) to
5 apply subsequent debits, whether preauthorized or other-
6 wise, or for any other reason, unless the consumer ex-
7 pressly requests that such account be reopened.

8 “(g) NOTICE OF SUBSEQUENT PREAUTHORIZED RE-
9 CURRING DEBITS.—During the 30-day period beginning
10 on the date an account at an insured depository institution
11 is closed pursuant to a request by the accountholder, the
12 insured depository institution shall promptly notify the
13 customer if a preauthorized recurring debit is directed to
14 the account.

15 “(h) LIMITATION ON REPORTING.—

16 “(1) NEGATIVE BALANCE RESULTING FROM
17 FEES.—If, at the time any account at an insured de-
18 pository institution is closed, the account has a neg-
19 ative balance resulting solely from any fee assessed
20 by the depository institution, the insured depository
21 institution may not report the fact of the out-
22 standing balance or any other adverse information
23 with respect to such account to any consumer re-
24 porting agency described in section 603(f) of the
25 Fair Credit Reporting Act if such information could

1 be used to adversely affect the consumer's ability to
2 open a transaction account at another depository in-
3 stitution.

4 “(2) TREATMENT OF NEGATIVE BALANCE RE-
5 SULTING FROM OVERDRAFTS.—If such information
6 could be used to adversely affect the consumer's
7 ability to open a transaction account at another de-
8 pository institution, an insured depository institution
9 shall not report to any consumer reporting agency
10 (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Report-
11 ing Act) that an account had a negative balance at
12 the time of the closure of the account unless all of
13 the following conditions are met:

14 “(A) Only if the negative balance is the re-
15 sult of funds actually paid by the depository in-
16 stitution to a third party;

17 “(B) Only for the amount it actually paid
18 to the third party and not for any fees associ-
19 ated with the transaction; and

20 “(C) Only to the extent the negative bal-
21 ance is the result of credit extended through an
22 overdraft line of credit program where the fee
23 or charge incurred in connection with the over-
24 draft is considered a finance charge under the
25 Truth In Lending Act.

1 “(3) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR REPAY-
2 MENT OF OVERDRAFT.—If an account of an
3 accountholder at an insured depository institution
4 has a negative balance at the time the account is
5 closed, the insured depository institution—

6 “(A) shall promptly notify the
7 accountholder of the fact of the negative bal-
8 ance and the amount due; and

9 “(B) may, after the end of the 30-day pe-
10 riod beginning on the date notice is provided to
11 an accountholder under subparagraph (A)—

12 “(i) report the fact of the outstanding
13 balance or any other adverse information
14 with respect to such account to any con-
15 sumer reporting agency, subject to the lim-
16 itations in paragraph (2); and

17 “(ii) take any other collection activity
18 with respect to such outstanding balance.

19 “(i) TRANSFER OF DIRECT DEPOSIT RECEIVED
20 AFTER NOTICE OF CLOSURE AND PAYMENT.—If—

21 “(1) during the 30-day period beginning after
22 any balance in an account at an insured depository
23 institution that is closed by the institution pursuant
24 to a request by the accountholder has been repaid to
25 the accountholder, a previously scheduled amount in-

1 tended for direct deposit into such account is re-
2 ceived by such institution; and

3 “(2) before the time such amount is received,
4 the consumer provides the insured depository insti-
5 tution with an account number and insured deposi-
6 tory institution routing number for a successor
7 transaction or savings account at another insured
8 depository institution,
9 the insured depository institution which receives such
10 amount shall transfer such amount, without a fee and by
11 electronic fund transfer, to the insured depository institu-
12 tion identified by the former accountholder for deposit in
13 the transaction or savings account identified by such
14 former accountholder.

15 “(j) REGULATIONS.—The Federal banking agencies
16 shall jointly prescribe regulations to carry out the pur-
17 poses of this section.”.