

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish no-fee transaction accounts at Federal reserve banks, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To establish no-fee transaction accounts at Federal reserve banks, 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 “Access to No-Fee Ac-  
5 counts Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NO-FEE ACCOUNTS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED PERSON.—The term “covered  
2 person” means a resident or citizen of the United  
3 States or a business domiciled in the United States.

4 (2) NO-FEE ACCOUNT.—The term “No-Fee Ac-  
5 count” means a digital transaction account main-  
6 tained by a Federal reserve bank on behalf of a cov-  
7 ered person.

8 (3) MEMBER BANK.—The term “member bank”  
9 means a member bank of the Board of Governors of  
10 the Federal Reserve System.

11 (b) MANDATE FOR MEMBER BANKS TO NO-FEE AC-  
12 COUNTS.—

13 (1) OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER BANKS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Member banks shall, as  
15 an agent of a Federal reserve bank, open and  
16 maintain No-Fee Accounts for all covered per-  
17 sons that—

18 (i) elect to deposit funds in such a  
19 No-Fee Account; or

20 (ii) elect to receive a deposit from the  
21 Federal Government in such a No-Fee Ac-  
22 count.

23 (B) APPLICATION.—Not later than 3  
24 months after the date on which the Board of  
25 Governors of the Federal Reserve System issues

1 the notice required under subsection (f), mem-  
2 ber banks with total consolidated assets in ex-  
3 cess of \$10,000,000,000 shall offer covered per-  
4 sons the ability to apply, through online or tele-  
5 phonic means, for a No-Fee Account.

6 (2) TERMS.—Each No-Fee Account established  
7 under this subsection—

8 (A) may not be subject to any account  
9 fees, minimum balances, or maximum balances;

10 (B) shall pay interest at a rate not below  
11 the greater of—

12 (i) the rate of interest on required re-  
13 serves deposited at a Federal reserve bank;  
14 and

15 (ii) the rate of interest on excess re-  
16 serves deposited at a Federal reserve bank;

17 (C) shall provide functionality and service  
18 levels not less favorable than those that the  
19 member bank offers for its existing transaction  
20 accounts (including with respect to access to  
21 debit cards and automated teller machines, on-  
22 line account access, automatic bill-pay and mo-  
23 bile banking services, customer service, and  
24 such other services as the Board determines),

1           except that No-Fee Accounts shall not include  
2           overdraft coverage;

3           (D) shall be prominently branded in all ac-  
4           count statements, marketing materials, and  
5           other communications of the member bank as a  
6           “No-Fee Account” maintained by the member  
7           bank on behalf of the Board of Governors of  
8           the Federal Reserve System;

9           (E) may not be closed or restricted by the  
10          member bank on the basis of profitability con-  
11          siderations; and

12          (F) shall provide holders with reasonable  
13          protection against losses caused by fraud or se-  
14          curity breaches.

15          (3) REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS.—Each mem-  
16          ber bank with total consolidated assets less than or  
17          equal to \$10,000,000,000 shall be reimbursed each  
18          calendar quarter by the relevant Federal reserve  
19          bank for actual and reasonable operational costs in-  
20          curred by the member bank in offering No-Fee Ac-  
21          counts.

22          (c) AUTHORITY FOR STATE NONMEMBER BANKS,  
23          THRIFTS, AND CREDIT UNIONS TO OFFER NO-FEE AC-  
24          COUNTS.—The Federal reserve banks shall permit State  
25          banks, Federal thrifts, State thrifts, and credit unions

1 that are not member banks to offer No-Fee Accounts in  
2 compliance with the requirements of subsection (b)(2).  
3 Each State bank, Federal thrift, State thrift, or credit  
4 union electing to offer No-Fee Accounts shall be entitled  
5 to cost reimbursement similar to the reimbursement de-  
6 scribed in subsection (b)(3).

7 (d) MANDATE FOR FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS TO  
8 MAINTAIN NO-FEE ACCOUNTS.—

9 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to such restric-  
10 tions, limitations, and regulations as may be im-  
11 posed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-  
12 serve System, each Federal reserve bank shall main-  
13 tain No-Fee Accounts.

14 (2) UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FACILI-  
15 TIES.—Federal reserve banks shall partner with  
16 United States Postal Service facilities—

17 (A) to ensure access and availability to ap-  
18 plication and account services for No-Fee Ac-  
19 counts for all covered persons, including in  
20 areas where access to a physical branch of a  
21 member bank is limited; and

22 (B) shall provide, in conjunction with the  
23 United States Postal Service, access to auto-  
24 mated teller machines to be maintained on be-

1 half of the Board by the United States Postal  
2 Service facilities.

3 (3) TERMS OF NO-FEE ACCOUNTS.—Federal re-  
4 serve banks shall ensure that No-Fee Accounts es-  
5 tablished under this section comply with the require-  
6 ments of subsection (b)(2).

7 (4) BANK SECRECY ACT.—In establishing and  
8 maintaining No-Fee Accounts, each Federal reserve  
9 bank shall comply with section 21 of the Federal  
10 Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b), section  
11 123 of Public Law 91–508, and subchapter II of  
12 chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

13 (5) PENALTIES.—The Board of Governors of  
14 the Federal Reserve System shall, by rule, establish  
15 penalties that are similar to the penalties imposed  
16 on individuals for willfully disclosing return or re-  
17 turn information (as defined in section 6103(b) of  
18 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), other than as  
19 authorized in such Code.

20 (e) RULES.—The Board of Governors of the Federal  
21 Reserve System shall issue rules to carry out this section.

22 (f) IMPLEMENTATION.—

23 (1) NOTICE.—Not later than 18 months after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Gov-  
25 ernors of the Federal Reserve System shall provide

1 a public notice of the establishment of necessary sys-  
2 tems and protocols to support the implementation of  
3 No-Fee Accounts at Federal reserve banks.

4 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 month  
5 after the publication of the notice described in sub-  
6 paragraph (A), all Federal reserve banks shall make  
7 No-Fee Accounts available to all covered persons.