

HOUSE BILL 740

I3

8lr3008
CF 8lr1015

By: **Delegate Clippinger**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Law – Consumer Protection – Ticket Website Domain Names**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person who owns, operates, or controls a ticket website
4 from using in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the ticket website certain
5 lower-level domain names; providing for the application of this Act; defining certain
6 terms; and generally relating to ticket website domain names and ticket sales and
7 resales.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Commercial Law
10 Section 14-4001 and 14-4003
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Commercial Law
15 Section 14-4003
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Commercial Law**

21 14-4001.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) (1) “Entertainment event” means:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) A performance;
- 2 (ii) A recreation;
- 3 (iii) An amusement;
- 4 (iv) A diversion;
- 5 (v) A spectacle;
- 6 (vi) A show; or
- 7 (vii) Any similar event.

8 (2) "Entertainment event" includes:

- 9 (i) A theatrical or musical performance;
- 10 (ii) A concert;
- 11 (iii) A film;
- 12 (iv) A game;
- 13 (v) A ride; and
- 14 (vi) A sporting event.

15 (C) (1) "LOWER-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME" MEANS THE PORTION OF TEXT IN
16 A URL THAT IS TO THE LEFT OF TOP-LEVEL DOMAINS SUCH AS.COM,.NET, OR.ORG.

17 (2) "LOWER-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME" INCLUDES:

- 18 (I) A SECOND-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME;
- 19 (II) A THIRD-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME; AND
- 20 (III) ANY OTHER SUBDOMAIN NAME.

21 [(c)] (D) "Ticket" means a ticket for admission to an entertainment event.

22 (E) "TICKET WEBSITE" MEANS A WEBSITE:

- 23 (1) ADVERTISING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS;
- 24 (2) OFFERING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS; OR

1 **(3) FACILITATING A SECONDARY TICKET EXCHANGE OR ELECTRONIC**
2 **MARKETPLACE THAT ENABLES CONSUMERS TO SELL, PURCHASE, AND RESELL**
3 **TICKETS.**

4 **(F) “URL” MEANS THE UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR FOR A WEBSITE.**

5 **(G) “VENUE” MEANS A THEATER, A STADIUM, A FIELD, A HALL, A**
6 **CONVENTION CENTER, A FAIRGROUND, OR ANY OTHER FACILITY WHERE AN**
7 **ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TAKES PLACE.**

8 **14-4003.**

9 **(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS ACTING ON**
10 **BEHALF OF A VENUE.**

11 **(B) A PERSON WHO OWNS, OPERATES, OR CONTROLS A TICKET WEBSITE**
12 **MAY NOT USE IN THE URL OF THE TICKET WEBSITE A LOWER-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME**
13 **THAT CONTAINS:**

14 **(1) ALL OR PART OF THE NAME OF THE VENUE FOR WHICH THE**
15 **TICKET GRANTS ADMISSION;**

16 **(2) ALL OR PART OF THE NAME OF THE ENTERTAINMENT EVENT,**
17 **INCLUDING THE NAME OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP SCHEDULED TO PERFORM OR**
18 **APPEAR AT THE EVENT; OR**

19 **(3) A NAME SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE NAME IN ITEM (1) OR (2)**
20 **OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

21 **[14-4003.] 14-4004.**

22 A violation of this subtitle is:

23 **(1) An unfair or deceptive trade practice within the meaning of Title 13 of**
24 **this article; and**

25 **(2) Subject to the enforcement and penalty provisions contained in Title 13**
26 **of this article.**

27 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
28 **October 1, 2018.**