

SENATE BILL 693

I3

8lr1015
CF HB 740

By: ~~Senator Feldman~~ **Senators Feldman, Jennings, Klausmeier, and Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2018

CHAPTER _____

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**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 14-4001.

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

3 (b) (1) "Entertainment event" means:

4 (i) A performance;

5 (ii) A recreation;

6 (iii) An amusement;

7 (iv) A diversion;

8 (v) A spectacle;

9 (vi) A show; or

10 (vii) Any similar event.

11 (2) "Entertainment event" includes:

12 (i) A theatrical or musical performance;

13 (ii) A concert;

14 (iii) A film;

15 (iv) A game;

16 (v) A ride; and

17 (vi) A sporting event.

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

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

21 (I) A SECOND-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME;

22 (II) A THIRD-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME; AND

23 (III) ANY OTHER SUBDOMAIN NAME.

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

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

2 (1) ADVERTISING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS;

3 (2) OFFERING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS; OR

4 (3) FACILITATING A SECONDARY TICKET EXCHANGE OR ELECTRONIC
5 MARKETPLACE THAT ENABLES CONSUMERS TO SELL, PURCHASE, AND RESELL
6 TICKETS TO AN ENTERTAINMENT EVENT IN THE STATE.

7 (F) "URL" MEANS THE UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR FOR A WEBSITE.

8 (G) "VENUE" MEANS A THEATER, A STADIUM, A FIELD, A HALL, A
9 CONVENTION CENTER, A FAIRGROUND, OR ANY OTHER FACILITY WHERE AN
10 ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TAKES PLACE.

11 14-4003.

12 (A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS ACTING ON
13 BEHALF OF A VENUE.

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

17 (1) THE NAME OF THE VENUE FOR WHICH THE TICKET GRANTS
18 ADMISSION;

19 (2) THE NAME OF THE ENTERTAINMENT EVENT, INCLUDING THE
20 NAME OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP SCHEDULED TO PERFORM OR APPEAR AT THE
21 EVENT; OR

22 (3) A NAME SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE NAME IN ITEM (1) OR (2)
23 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

24 [14-4003.] 14-4004.

25 A violation of this subtitle is:

26 (1) An unfair or deceptive trade practice within the meaning of Title 13 of
27 this article; and

28 (2) Subject to the enforcement and penalty provisions contained in Title 13
29 of this article.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.