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**By: Senator Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection - Motion Picture Theaters**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring motion picture theaters to give refunds to a consumer if  
4 the consumer requests a refund within a certain amount of time; providing that a  
5 theater may provide readmission in lieu of a refund; requiring the theater to provide  
6 certain notice to consumers; and generally relating to consumer protection and  
7 motion pictures.

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Commercial Law  
10 Section 14-2801 and 14-2802 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 28. Motion  
11 Picture Theaters"  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Commercial Law**

17 SUBTITLE 28. MOTION PICTURE THEATERS.

18 14-2801.

19 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
20 INDICATED.

21 (B) "CONSUMER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PURCHASES A TICKET OR PASS  
22 TO SEE A MOTION PICTURE IN A THEATER.

23 (C) "THEATER" MEANS A THEATER THAT SHOWS MOTION PICTURES.

24 14-2802.

25 (A) (1) EACH THEATER IN THE STATE, SHALL PROVIDE A REFUND TO A  
26 CONSUMER WHO NOTIFIES THE THEATER MANAGEMENT, NO LATER THAN 15  
27 MINUTES AFTER THE BEGINNING OF A MOTION PICTURE, THAT THE CUSTOMER IS  
28 DEPARTING THE THEATER AND DESIRES A REFUND.

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1                   (2) THE THEATER MAY OFFER THE CONSUMER READMISSION TO A  
2 SUBSEQUENT SHOWING OF A MOTION PICTURE IN LIEU OF A REFUND.

3                   (B) EACH THEATER IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING NOTICE  
4 TO CONSUMERS IN A LOCATION THAT WILL BE CONSPICUOUS TO CONSUMERS PRIOR  
5 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE MOTION PICTURE:

6                   "NOTICE TO CONSUMERS

7                   AS CONSUMERS OF MOTION PICTURES IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND, YOU  
8 HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A REFUND IF ANY CIRCUMSTANCE DISRUPTS OR  
9 DIMINISHES THE QUALITY OF VIEWING THE MOTION PICTURE, INCLUDING POOR  
10 SOUND QUALITY, IMPERFECT PICTURE, OR LACK OF HEAT OR AIR CONDITIONING.  
11 IN ORDER TO CLAIM A REFUND, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE MANAGEMENT WITHIN 15  
12 MINUTES AFTER THE MOTION PICTURE HAS BEGUN THAT YOU ARE LEAVING AND  
13 WANT A REFUND. THE THEATER MANAGEMENT HAS THE OPTION OF OFFERING TO  
14 GIVE YOU READMISSION TO A SUBSEQUENT SHOWING OF A MOTION PICTURE IN  
15 LIEU OF A REFUND."

16                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 1996.