

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 321
Judicial Proceedings

(Senator Dyson, *et al.*)

Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Medical Services Entities - Resale of Admission Tickets

This bill prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale an admission ticket to a specified entertainment event held for the benefit of a fire, a rescue, or an emergency services entity at a greater price than that printed on the ticket. A person violating the provisions of the bill is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$500. Each sale or offer for sale is a separate offense.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Maryland, a promoter of a boxing, kick-boxing, wrestling, or mixed-martial arts event is prohibited from selling or exchanging a ticket for an amount that exceeds the box office price. Baltimore City code prohibits an unlicensed person from engaging in the business of selling tickets to specified exhibitions, performances, games, or sports. The licensed ticket vendors may not accept a greater amount than the regular price, plus tax, of the ticket. The sale of each ticket is a separate offense.

Background: A majority of states have statutes that either restrict or prohibit the sale of tickets for a profit, otherwise known as ticket scalping. For example, Virginia authorizes localities to regulate ticket scalping. Delaware generally allows ticket scalping but prohibits the practice on the day of events at specified locations. Arkansas prohibits ticket scalping to events held for the benefit of charity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 61 (Delegate O'Donnell) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Comptroller's Office; Maryland Association of Counties; Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2011
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