

Chapter 826

(Senate Bill 693)

AN ACT concerning

Commercial Law – Consumer Protection – Ticket Website Domain Names

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

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

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

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

Article – Commercial Law

14-4001.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) (1) “Entertainment event” means:
 - (i) A performance;
 - (ii) A recreation;
 - (iii) An amusement;
 - (iv) A diversion;
 - (v) A spectacle;

- (vi) A show; or
 - (vii) Any similar event.
- (2) “Entertainment event” includes:
- (i) A theatrical or musical performance;
 - (ii) A concert;
 - (iii) A film;
 - (iv) A game;
 - (v) A ride; and
 - (vi) A sporting event.

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

(2) “LOWER-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME” INCLUDES:

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

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

(E) “TICKET WEBSITE” MEANS A WEBSITE:

- (1) ADVERTISING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS;**
- (2) OFFERING THE SALE OR RESALE OF TICKETS; OR**
- (3) FACILITATING A SECONDARY TICKET EXCHANGE OR ELECTRONIC MARKETPLACE THAT ENABLES CONSUMERS TO SELL, PURCHASE, AND RESELL TICKETS TO AN ENTERTAINMENT EVENT IN THE STATE.**

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

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

14-4003.

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

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

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

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

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

[14-4003.] 14-4004.

A violation of this subtitle is:

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

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

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

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 26, 2018.