



Testimony to the House Economic Matters Committee
SB539: Commercial Law -Consumer Protection-Sale and Resale of Tickets
Position: Favorable

March 27, 2023

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, House Economic Matters

Honorable Chair Wilson and members of the committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are writing today in support of SB539 as amended. As amended, SB539 builds on the strong work of the Maryland General Assembly to expand protections for ticket buyers to enjoy sports, music, and other live entertainment. Over the past few years, the General Assembly has prohibited the use of nefarious software bots for the purchase of tickets, banned deceptive undisclosed speculative tickets where the seller is offering the promise of a ticket instead of an actual ticket in-possession at time of purchase, and prohibited ticket sellers from using misleading website URLs that risk confusing fans into thinking they are on the site of the event organizer or venue when in fact they are not.

SB539 will build on this work by requiring clear, transparent “all-in” pricing for tickets so that consumers understand the true cost of the ticket immediately eliminating hidden fees late in the process as well as banning speculative sale tickets that mislead consumers into believing they are purchasing a ticket at the time of payment when in fact they are purchasing the future promise of a ticket. SB539 expands ticket fairness and transparency while limiting misleading services.

For these reasons, we support SB539 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

