



**INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
VENUE MANAGERS**  
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February 13, 2024

Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate Finance Committee:

The International Association of Venue Managers is encouraged to see the State of Maryland take an active interest in event ticketing to protect the residents and consumers in their communities. We are in support of Maryland SB 539 in its current form which will protect consumers by prohibiting speculative tickets, mandating price transparency and limiting the exorbitant price increases in the secondary market.

We support legislation at the federal and state level that protects fans and the public that attend our events. For legislation to be effective, it must address price transparency through all-inclusive pricing; fully prohibit the use of speculative tickets, which is fraudulent and is the practice of selling tickets that the seller does not have and ban the use of deceptive URLs and marketing.

IAVM supports Maryland SB 539 in its current form, which accomplishes two of the essential items that IAVM supports. This bill supports the integrity of the ticket sales process and provides needed protections to consumers and fans in Maryland. This bill has the added protection of limiting the price increases fans can experience in the secondary market. This alone can be the single biggest pain point for fans wanting to attend events.

IAVM has over 7,200 active members who are managers and senior executives from public assembly venues including, auditoriums, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, amphitheaters, and fairgrounds. We actively work to provide a safe and positive environment and experiences for all customers, fans and ticket purchasers who attend events at our venues. We are pleased to see the State of Arizona take these actions to further support those efforts.

Sincerely,

David P. Touhey, CVE  
Vice Chair Industry Affairs