



HB77 Consumer Protection-Sale and Resale of Tickets-Registration and Regulation
Position: FWA

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Kris Valderrama, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Room 230, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, House Economic Matters

Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the intent behind HB77 but believe that it falls short in offering the robust protection that ticket-buyers need in this increasingly complex marketplace.

Economic Action Maryland Fund has been working on legislation to improve transparency, pricing, and eliminate the use of bots and other technologies that distort the ticket-buying market for more than a decade.

We believe that ticket buyers and sellers need clear guidelines and guardrails to protect both. In 2024, the General Assembly passed SB539¹ which provides strong protections for all-in pricing, bans speculative tickets and makes resale platforms accountable for any speculative tickets sold or listed on their websites. Economic Action Maryland was pleased to support that legislation. HB77 seems to duplicate many provisions that are already in law.

Currently AG Brown is part of a lawsuit alongside the DOJ against Ticketmaster/Live Nation. However, Section 14-5108 gives legal deference to Ticketmaster's terms and conditions. We should not codify Ticketmaster's business practices while Maryland's own Attorney General is suing them for antitrust violations. Instead, you should mandate that if a rights holder chooses to restrict transferability then those tickets should be fully refundable for any reason.

We are concerned that if the bill intends to create a carve-out for sports, it will just create confusion for fans. This will essentially establish two separate sets of regulations depending on the event and lead to fan confusion with two sets of rules and regulations.

We have spoken to the sponsor about several amendments, which, if included as sponsor amendments to the bill would move us to favorable. However, we haven't seen the amendment language at this time, so we remain favorable with amendments.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

¹ <https://news.pollstar.com/2024/05/09/maryland-governor-signs-ticketing-bill/>

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.



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