



Music Artists Coalition
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Maryland House of Delegates
Committee on Economic Matters
Chairperson Valderrama

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February 6th, 2026

RE: HB 0077

**Written Testimony of Ron Gubitx
Executive Director of the Music Artists Coalition**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee on Economic Matters:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of House Bill 77, the Ticket Resale Consumer Protection and Transparency Act. The Music Artists Coalition is an artist-driven organization that fights to ensure music creators have a voice at the table in policy decisions that directly impact their careers, their livelihoods, and their families.

Our artists believe that the people *making the music* should also be the people *making the decisions* about how tickets to their performances are sold and resold. Artists invest precious time, energy, and money to deliver deeply memorable live entertainment experiences for their fans. There is truly no one who cares more about music fans than the artists themselves.

HB 77 is a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to the problems plaguing the secondary ticket market in Maryland, and MAC respectfully urges this Committee to move it forward.

Price Caps on Ticket Resale

MAC's core ticketing priority is the cap on resale prices, and HB 77's provision limiting resale to face value plus 10% is a critical step. This is the primary issue for artists because where tickets are resold at exorbitant markups, not a single cent of those additional revenues flows to the

artists, their crews, the venues, or the local businesses supporting a performance.

Artists at every level – local punk bands, community theater productions, nonprofit concerts, and globally known musicians – employ carpenters, electricians, sound and light techs, caterers, drivers, security, and more. Uncapped resale pricing doesn't just hurt fans; it siphons money away from the entire ecosystem in Maryland that makes live entertainment possible.

Artists want diverse audiences, not just those with the deepest pockets. Price caps help ensure that the fans who love the music are the ones in the seats.

Ban on Speculative Ticketing

MAC strongly supports HB 77's prohibition on speculative ticket sales – the practice of listing and selling tickets the seller does not actually possess at the time of sale. Should someone be able to sell something they don't own? Of course not.

We have stories of fans buying a ticket on a secondary platform, showing up at a venue, and finding out the ticket isn't real. The venue is forced to figure out how to help this consumer. The fan spent money and time on travel. It seems obvious: if you sell something, you should have something to sell. Speculative ticketing is fundamentally deceptive because it creates false scarcity and funnels access to those willing to pay the most instead of genuine fans. HB 77 fixes that.

All-In Pricing and Transparency

MAC applauds HB 77's requirement that the total price of a ticket – including all fees and taxes – be clearly disclosed from the moment of listing through every step of the transaction. Hidden fees have long been a source of frustration for fans and a tool for deception by bad actors in the secondary market. Marylanders deserve to know what they are paying before they commit to a purchase.

Registration, Bonding, and Accountability

We also support the bill's registration and bonding requirements for resellers, as well as the reporting obligations placed on secondary ticket exchanges. When resellers face real consequences – registration, bonding, potential enforcement – they are less likely to exploit the system. Accountability matters. Enforcement matters.

Bot Prevention

HB 77's requirement that ticket issuers and exchanges take commercially feasible steps to prevent bots from circumventing purchase limits is another provision MAC strongly endorses. Bots allow professional scalpers to scoop up tickets before real fans have a chance, feeding the very secondary market abuses this bill addresses. Technology should work for fans, not against them.

Preserving Artists' Ability to Set Transfer Terms

MAC appreciates that HB 77 strikes a thoughtful balance on ticket transferability. The bill allows consumers to transfer tickets while also preserving the ability of ticket issuers – including artists and venues – to set reasonable terms and conditions, so long as those terms are clearly disclosed before purchase. This is important because artists often use transfer restrictions as a tool to keep tickets in the hands of real fans and to disincentivize price gouging and predatory reselling.

Maryland will be the leader on this issue, standing up for fans who have had music change their lives for the better. HB 77 is a strong, comprehensive bill that protects consumers, supports artists, and brings much-needed transparency and accountability to the secondary ticket market.

Thank you again for the opportunity for the Music Artists Coalition to submit testimony before this Committee. We **strongly support** House Bill 77.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Gubitz

