

MEIA || Maryland Entertainment Industry Association

To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Members of the Maryland Entertainment Industry Association, and The Baltimore Orioles, The Baltimore Ravens, CFG Bank Arena, The Fillmore, Hippodrome Theater, The Lyric Baltimore, MGM National Harbor, Upfront Promotions, and The Washington Commanders

Date: February 24, 2026

RE: House Bill 77, Consumer Protection – Sale and resale of Event tickets – Registration and Regulation

Position: **Oppose**

The Maryland Entertainment Industry Association, and The Baltimore Orioles, The Baltimore Ravens, CFG Bank Arena, The Fillmore, Hippodrome Theater, The Lyric Baltimore, MGM National Harbor, Upfront Promotions, and the Washington Commanders, write to oppose HB 77.

Maryland's sports and entertainment industry is an enormous source of pride, employment, and revenue for the state. According to a recent Oxford Economics study, the live music and entertainment industry generates a total economic impact of \$655 million in Maryland. This total economic impact supported 5,139 total jobs and generated \$41 million in total state and local tax revenues.

As background, it is the artists, teams, and event organizers who make all pricing and distribution decisions regarding their tickets. As they should – they are the ones who invest in creating, producing, and hosting the live events Marylanders love to enjoy. However, several provisions in the bill and proposed amendments would take those decisions away from the people who are responsible for putting on the event and require them to share proprietary information like inventory disclosure with professional resellers. Professional resellers are eager to obtain that information so they can strategize the best way to utilize their bots to scoop up as many tickets as possible and prevent actual fans from accessing those tickets.

Artists are increasingly seeking to book venues that provide them with flexibility to enact ticketing measures that serve to ensure tickets are getting into the hands of their true fans at reasonable prices. By prohibiting that flexibility, provisions in this bill will drive entertainment acts to venues outside of Maryland, meaning fewer shows for Maryland consumers to attend, fewer event-related jobs in Maryland and decreased tax revenues from all of the different event-related sources.

We supported the ticketing legislation passed in 2024 which provided strong consumer protections for fans like banning speculative ticketing. In fact, other states have looked to Maryland's current law as they craft their own legislation. We encourage enforcing the current law to better protect fans from bad actors looking to scam the ticketing system.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose House Bill 77.

Thank you,
Maryland Entertainment Industry Association

Contact:
Frank D. Boston, III
410-323-7090