



**Representative Mark Hiner**  
House District 98

**Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 563**  
House Technology & Innovation Committee  
February 17th, 2026

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to return and provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 563.

House Bill 563 addresses a longstanding and growing issue within Ohio's entertainment and tourism industry: deceptive ticket resale practices. Ticket scalping once meant someone standing outside an arena hoping to make a quick sale. Today, it has moved online, where deception is harder to detect and far more sophisticated.

This bill targets third-party sellers who disguise themselves as official venues, artists, or ticket platforms. Some websites exploit legal loopholes to make their pages appear nearly identical to legitimate sellers by using similar names, logos, and designs. They often mark up prices dramatically and, in some cases, sell tickets they do not even own, or sell the same ticket multiple times. Consumers are left overpaying or arriving with counterfeit tickets, while venues are left to manage the consequences.

I have heard directly from venues that set aside blocks of seats at every event for patrons who unknowingly purchased fraudulent tickets. In some cases, those accommodations cost venues hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Larger venues feel that impact, but smaller venues are being hit especially hard, often without the financial cushion to absorb those losses. What began as a consumer protection issue has become a significant operational and financial burden for Ohio venues.

House Bill 563 ensures that if you are not the venue or the artist, you cannot present yourself as though you are. It closes the loopholes that allow online impersonation and brings greater transparency and accountability to the ticket marketplace. At the same time, this legislation draws a clear distinction between fraud and legitimate resale. Many Ohioans use resale platforms responsibly to transfer tickets or recover costs. This bill does not prohibit resale in any way. It simply requires that resales occur honestly and transparently.

# Ohio House of Representatives



**Representative Mark Hiner**  
House District 98

Since my previous testimony, our office has spent considerable time meeting with venues, ticketing platforms, and industry representatives. Those conversations were productive and provided valuable feedback. As a result, we are preparing an amendment that we expect to submit to the committee soon. It will include adjustments to better conform with federal policy, along with several technical refinements. Importantly, these changes do not alter the intent of the bill. The goal remains the same: to protect consumers and ensure a fair, transparent ticket marketplace.

Ultimately, House Bill 563 is about restoring trust. When Ohioans purchase a ticket online, they should know who they are buying from, what they are paying, and that the ticket they receive is valid.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Hiner".

**State Representative Mark Hiner**  
District 98 | Coshocton, Holmes, Knox