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Representative Hiner

Cosponsors: Representatives Johnson, Fischer, Abdullahi, Brennan, Claggett, Cockley, Daniels, Demetriou, Glassburn, Holmes, Jarrells, McNally, Miller, M., Mohamed, Ritter, Rogers, Russo, Salvo, Sigrist, Sims, Somani, Tims, White, E., Williams, Willis, Workman, Young

To enact sections 1345.53 and 1345.54 of the 1
Revised Code to regulate ticket sales. 2

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 1345.53 and 1345.54 of the 3
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 1345.53. (A) As used in this section and section 5
1345.54 of the Revised Code: 6

(1) "Entertainment" means all forms of entertainment, 7
including theatrical or operatic performances, dance, ballet, 8
concerts, motion pictures, entertainment at fairgrounds, 9
amusement parks, athletic competitions and other sports, and all 10
other forms of diversion, recreation, or show. 11

(2) "Internet domain name" means a globally unique, 12
hierarchical reference to an internet host or service, which is 13
assigned through a centralized internet naming authority and 14
which is composed of a series of character strings separated by 15
periods with the rightmost string specifying the top of the 16
hierarchy. 17

(3) "Online ticket marketplace" means the administrator of 18
a web site or other electronic service, including an agent, 19
employee, or assignee of the administrator, that sells tickets 20
or maintains a platform to facilitate the sale of tickets. 21

(4) "Operator" means a person, including an agent, 22
employee, or assignee of the person who does one or more of the 23
following: 24

(a) Owns, operates, or controls a place of entertainment; 25

(b) Produces entertainment; 26

(c) Sells a ticket to a place of entertainment for 27
original sale. 28

(5) "Place of entertainment" means an entertainment 29
facility, including an amphitheater, theater, stadium, arena, 30
racetrack, museum, amusement park, venue, club, or other place 31
where performances, concerts, exhibits, athletic games, 32
contests, or other forms of entertainment are held in this 33
state. 34

(6) "Ticket-buying session" means an online interaction 35
between a purchaser and an online ticket marketplace, operator, 36
or ticket reseller measured as from the time a purchaser selects 37
a specific ticket and either completes the purchase or the 38
session times out. 39

(7) (a) "Ticket reseller" means a person that offers or 40
sells tickets for resale after the original sale to an 41
entertainment event located in this state and includes an 42
operator to the extent that the operator offers or sells tickets 43
for resale. Sales by a ticket reseller include sales by any 44
means, including in person or by telephone, mail, delivery 45
service, facsimile, internet, email, or other electronic means. 46

(b) "Ticket reseller" does not include a person that 47
purchases a ticket solely for the person's own use or the use of 48
the person's invitees, employees, or agents. 49

(8) "URL" means a uniform resource locator for a web site 50
on the internet. 51

(B) A ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace shall, 52
at the first time a ticket price is displayed, include mandatory 53
fees other than taxes and costs associated with shipping a 54
physical ticket to a buyer. An itemized breakdown of all 55
components of the total price, including taxes and shipping 56
costs, shall be clearly disclosed prior to final purchase. 57

(C) (1) An operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket 58
marketplace shall disclose subtotals, fees, charges, or other 59
components of the total cost of a ticket in a way that is not 60
false or misleading, and such that the information is not 61
presented more prominently than, or in the same or larger font 62
as, the total cost of the ticket. 63

(2) An operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket 64
marketplace may disclose subtotals, fees, charges, and other 65
components of the total cost of the ticket in a manner that 66
allows the purchaser to hide or minimize the itemized list. 67

(3) An operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket 68
marketplace shall not increase the price of a ticket with 69
respect to a particular person after the ticket price is first 70
displayed to that person. This division does not prohibit an 71
operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket marketplace from 72
doing any of the following: 73

(a) Charging a reasonable fee for the delivery of tickets 74
in a nonelectronic form, upon election of that delivery method 75

<u>by the purchaser;</u>	76
<u>(b) Adding to the total cost additional charges for any optional purchases made by the purchaser, so long as the cost of those additional purchases are disclosed to the purchaser prior to the operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket marketplace accepting payment;</u>	77 78 79 80 81
<u>(c) Including a tax imposed on the transaction by a federal, state, tribal, or local government agency, unit, or department;</u>	82 83 84
<u>(d) Not disclosing the components or fees included in a season ticket which combined make up the operator's base ticket price.</u>	85 86 87
<u>(D) (1) A ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace shall disclose in an easily readable and conspicuous manner on the ticket reseller's or online ticket marketplace's web site or electronic service, including in the entity's terms of service, all of the following:</u>	88 89 90 91 92
<u>(a) That the web site or electronic service is owned or operated by a ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace and that the price of a resale ticket may be higher or lower than the original purchase price;</u>	93 94 95 96
<u>(b) That the purchaser is responsible for checking with the place of entertainment for information on changes to the event or cancellations prior to the event's start time;</u>	97 98 99
<u>(c) The refund policy of the ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace.</u>	100 101
<u>(2) A ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace shall require a purchaser to confirm having read the disclosures</u>	102 103

required by division (D) (1) of this section before completing a 104
transaction. 105

(E) Within twenty-four hours after selling a resale 106
ticket, a ticket reseller or online ticket marketplace shall 107
provide proof of purchase to the purchaser, which shall include 108
all of the following: 109

(1) All event and ticket information; 110

(2) That the purchaser is responsible for checking with 111
the place of entertainment for information on changes to the 112
event or cancellations prior to the event's start time; 113

(3) The refund policy of the ticket reseller or online 114
ticket marketplace. 115

(F) An online ticket marketplace or ticket reseller shall 116
not use any words, image, trademark, copyright, web design, or 117
internet address that is identical or substantially similar to 118
words, images, trademark, copyright, web designs, or internet 119
addresses associated with a place of entertainment without the 120
written permission of the place of entertainment or license 121
holder duly authorized to provide the permission. This division 122
does not prohibit an online ticket marketplace from doing either 123
or both of the following: 124

(1) Using words containing the name of a place of 125
entertainment or of an event, including the name of an artist or 126
team, in order to describe the location of the event or the 127
event itself; 128

(2) Providing information or images identifying the 129
specific seat or area the purchaser will occupy in the place of 130
entertainment. 131

<u>Sec. 1345.54. (A) No person shall do any of the following:</u>	132
<u>(1) Sell or offer to sell more than one copy of the same</u>	133
<u>ticket to a place of entertainment;</u>	134
<u>(2) Directly or indirectly employ or compensate another</u>	135
<u>person to purchase tickets for the purpose of reselling the</u>	136
<u>tickets if the practice is prohibited by law or if the place of</u>	137
<u>entertainment posts a policy prohibiting the practice;</u>	138
<u>(3) Sell or offer to sell a ticket without first informing</u>	139
<u>the person of the location of the place of entertainment and the</u>	140
<u>ticket's assigned seat, including the seat number, row, and</u>	141
<u>section number of the seat, or if the place of entertainment</u>	142
<u>does not utilize section, row, or seat identifiers because it is</u>	143
<u>a general admission event, then the most precise seat location</u>	144
<u>identifier used by the place of entertainment;</u>	145
<u>(4) Sell or offer to sell a ticket for which there is no</u>	146
<u>assigned seat without first informing the person of the general</u>	147
<u>admission area to which the ticket corresponds;</u>	148
<u>(5) Advertise, offer for sale, or contract for the sale of</u>	149
<u>a ticket before the ticket has been made available to the</u>	150
<u>public, including via presale, without first obtaining</u>	151
<u>permission from the place of entertainment and having actual or</u>	152
<u>constructive possession of the ticket, unless the ticket</u>	153
<u>reseller owns the ticket pursuant to a season ticket package</u>	154
<u>purchased by the ticket reseller.</u>	155
<u>(B) No operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket</u>	156
<u>marketplace shall use or caused to be used for reselling tickets</u>	157
<u>an internet domain name or subdomain with a web site URL that</u>	158
<u>contains the name of a place of entertainment, the name of an</u>	159
<u>event, the name of a person scheduled to perform or appear at an</u>	160

event, or a name substantially similar to any of the foregoing, 161
unless the operator, ticket reseller, or online ticket 162
marketplace is acting on behalf of the place, event, or person. 163

(C) No person shall knowingly do any of the following: 164

(1) Circumvent through any automated means any security or 165
identity validation measures or access control system used to 166
protect the process for purchasing a ticket on the internet or 167
for admission to a place of entertainment; 168

(2) Disguise the identity of a purchaser for the purpose 169
of purchasing a number of tickets for admission to a place of 170
entertainment that exceeds the maximum number of tickets allowed 171
for purchase by a person; 172

(3) Sell a ticket acquired in violation of division (C) (1) 173
or (2) of this section regardless of whether the person 174
participated in or had the ability to control the prohibited 175
conduct. 176

(D) An operator, online ticket marketplace, or ticket 177
reseller shall not sell a ticket unless one or both of the 178
following apply: 179

(1) The ticket is in the possession or constructive 180
possession of the operator, online ticket marketplace, or ticket 181
reseller; 182

(2) The operator, online ticket marketplace, or ticket 183
reseller has a written contract with the place of entertainment 184
to obtain the ticket. 185

(E) A violation of this section or section 1345.53 of the 186
Revised Code is an unfair or deceptive act or practice in 187
violation of section 1345.02 of the Revised Code. All powers and 188

<u>remedies available to the attorney general to enforce sections</u>	189
<u>1345.01 to 1345.13 of the Revised Code are available to the</u>	190
<u>attorney general to enforce this section and section 1345.53 of</u>	191
<u>the Revised Code.</u>	192
<u>(F) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a</u>	193
<u>private cause of action for individual consumers due to an</u>	194
<u>entity's violation of this section.</u>	195