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**SENATE BILL 6175**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovelett, J. Wilson, Wellman, Dhingra, Frame, Pedersen, Nobles, Valdez, Alvarado, Trudeau, Cortes, Conway, Slatter, Lovick, C. Wilson, Kauffman, Shewmake, Salomon, Bateman, Cleveland, Orwall, Hunt, Wagoner, Robinson, Hasegawa, and Riccelli

1 AN ACT Relating to ticket sales; amending RCW 19.345.010 and  
2 19.345.020; adding new sections to chapter 19.345 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the ticket  
6 market for live entertainment and sporting events has become  
7 increasingly complex, leading to consumer confusion, hidden fees, and  
8 fraudulent practices. The legislature intends to protect consumers by  
9 promoting transparency and fair competition in both the primary and  
10 secondary ticket markets, while also supporting nonprofit and smaller  
11 arts and performance venues that are essential to Washington's  
12 culture and economy. The legislature further intends to safeguard  
13 artists' fair wages and the integrity of public funds by ensuring  
14 that taxpayer-supported venues and organizations, which strive to  
15 keep ticket prices affordable for their communities and honor  
16 contractual agreements with artists, are not undermined by  
17 profiteering of the secondary market.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This chapter does not apply to the  
19 following:

20 (1) Agricultural fairs;

1 (2) K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, or associated  
2 booster clubs or student organizations;

3 (3) Nonprofit organizations or businesses whose primary purpose  
4 is the advancement or presentation of arts, culture, science, or  
5 heritage, and that have an annual gross revenue from the sale of  
6 tickets of less than \$500,000;

7 (4) Movie theaters;

8 (5) Professional and collegiate athletic teams;

9 (6) Federally recognized tribes; and

10 (7) Tribal cultural institutions.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A ticket issuer shall not restrict the  
12 transferability of a ticket sold unless the terms and conditions on  
13 transferability are clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the  
14 consumer prior to purchase and the consumer acknowledges receipt of  
15 such disclosure prior to purchase.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** It is an unfair or deceptive act or  
17 practice for a person to engage in the business of a ticket reseller  
18 or ticket resale marketplace without the written permission of the  
19 original ticket seller, or the owner or operator of the property  
20 where the event is being held, or both, if the resale transaction  
21 violates the contractual or license terms of the original ticket  
22 sale.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sale, offer for sale, or advertisement  
24 of a speculative ticket is prohibited. An advertisement for a  
25 speculative ticket is a violation for each ticket listed in the  
26 advertisement.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Resellers and secondary ticket exchanges  
28 are prohibited from listing or selling tickets before their initial  
29 public on-sale. Additionally, fan club presale tickets may not be  
30 accessed, listed, or resold by any ticket reseller or exchange.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Resellers must notify ticket buyers in  
32 writing within eight hours if they receive notification that an event  
33 is canceled, rescheduled, delayed, or the venue is changed.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    A person may not knowingly resell or offer  
2 to resell a ticket that was obtained in violation of this act.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    (1) A person may not knowingly purchase  
4 with the intent to resell, a quantity of tickets from the original  
5 ticket seller that exceeds the maximum ticket limit quantity posted  
6 by such seller at the point of the original ticket seller.

7        (2) Charitable organizations and their employees and volunteers  
8 are not subject to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section  
9 when offering tickets for sale in a raffle, auction, or similar  
10 fundraising activity for the benefit of the organization's charitable  
11 purpose.

12       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    (1) The total price at which a reseller  
13 may sell or offer to sell a ticket to a consumer, including any  
14 service fees charged by the reseller or secondary ticket exchange,  
15 may not exceed 110 percent of the total price of the initial ticket,  
16 including all fees and taxes in connection with the initial ticket.

17       (2) A person or secondary ticket exchange may not charge a  
18 service fee exceeding 10 percent of the initial ticket's total price  
19 to the consumer. This fee must be incorporated into the calculation  
20 of the 110 percent resale price cap established in subsection (1) of  
21 this section.

22       (3) The fee and price limitations of subsections (1) and (2) of  
23 this section do not apply to the resale of tickets for a sporting  
24 event where the ticket issuer is a professional or minor league  
25 sports team, sports organization, or promoter.

26       (4)(a) Resellers may not alter original digital tickets to change  
27 ticket pricing, order numbers, names, or other information printed on  
28 the face of the ticket. They must include vendor identification and  
29 clearly state that it is a secondary market ticket purchase.

30       (b) Charitable organizations and their employees and volunteers  
31 are not subject to the requirements of (a) of this subsection when  
32 offering tickets for sale in a raffle, auction, or similar  
33 fundraising activity for the benefit of the organization's charitable  
34 purpose.

35       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**    (1) No secondary entertainment event  
36 ticket exchange, reseller, or operator of any website purporting to  
37 sell or offer for sale entertainment event tickets that link or

1 redirect to a secondary entertainment event ticket exchange or  
2 reseller may do the following:

3 (a) Use any performing artist name, venue name, event organizer  
4 name, graphic, marketing logo, image, likeness, or other intellectual  
5 property of a performing artist, venue, or event organizer, including  
6 using any proprietary resemblance of the venue where an event occurs  
7 in promotional materials, social media promotions, or uniform  
8 resource locators of the secondary entertainment event ticket  
9 exchange, reseller, or website; or

10 (b) State or imply that the secondary entertainment event ticket  
11 exchange, reseller, or website is affiliated with or endorsed by a  
12 venue or performing artist, including by using words such as  
13 "official" in promotional materials, social media promotions, search  
14 engine optimization, paid advertising, uniform resource locators, or  
15 search engine monetization unless the secondary entertainment event  
16 ticket exchange, reseller, or website has the express written consent  
17 of the venue or performing artist.

18 (2) Any digital advertising, website, or mobile application  
19 operated by a ticket reseller or secondary marketplace must include a  
20 clear, prominent, and easily visible disclosure in the top 20 percent  
21 of the webpage, including the homepage, landing pages, and any page  
22 where tickets are purchased, stating the following:

- 23 (a) That the site is a reseller or secondary marketplace; and  
24 (b) That the buyer is not purchasing a ticket directly from the  
25 event venue, team, artist, original/primary ticket seller.

26 (3) Resellers are prohibited from using the name of an artist,  
27 performer, team, or venue in the website's uniform resource locator  
28 with the intent to gain an unfair search engine optimization  
29 advantage or to mislead consumers into believing the site is an  
30 official or primary seller.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) Any person or entity that  
32 commercially engages in the resale of tickets for events taking place  
33 within this state, or provides a platform for such commercial  
34 activities, shall obtain a license from the department of licensing  
35 prior to commencing operations. This chapter is subject to the  
36 uniform regulation of business and professions act, chapter 18.235  
37 RCW.

1 (2) The department of licensing shall establish and require a  
2 single class of ticket license to ensure appropriate oversight for  
3 each segment of the industry, including:

4 (a) Ticket resale marketplace license: Required for any platform,  
5 service, or technology provider that facilitates, hosts, or operates  
6 a secondary market for the resale of tickets by third parties; and

7 (b) Commercial ticket reseller license: Required for any  
8 individual or entity whose business, in whole or in part, involves  
9 the acquisition and commercial resale of tickets for profit.

10 (3) An individual who is not otherwise classified under  
11 subsection (2) of this section is exempt from the licensing  
12 requirements of this section if they resell fewer than 10 tickets  
13 within a single calendar year. This exemption is intended for casual  
14 sales and does not apply to tickets resold as part of a recurring  
15 business or commercial activity.

16 (4) The department of licensing shall adopt rules and set license  
17 fees for the licenses required under this section. Fees shall be set  
18 at a level to cover the costs of administering this chapter.

19 (5) The department of licensing may revoke a reseller's  
20 registration for one to five years for a violation of this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1) Any applicant who intentionally  
22 provides false information in an application for licensure is subject  
23 to denial of the license application, or if the license is issued,  
24 suspension or revocation of the license, or a civil penalty of up to  
25 \$1,000 per violation, or both, as determined by the department of  
26 licensing.

27 (2) Any licensee who changes the business name, business address,  
28 or primary contact information must notify the department of  
29 licensing in writing within 30 days of such change. Failure to  
30 provide timely and accurate notice may result in suspension or  
31 revocation of the license, or a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per  
32 violation, or both, as determined by the department.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The department of licensing shall set  
34 license and endorsement fees at a level to cover the costs of  
35 administering this chapter. However, the department may establish a  
36 reduced or tiered fee schedule for nonprofit organizations and small  
37 organizations, as defined by rule, to promote access and  
38 participation.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 15.**     (1) If a reseller fails to deliver  
2 tickets to a consumer, the consumer may claim compensation from a  
3 surety bond, which the department of licensing shall require for all  
4 registered resellers.

5        (2) The surety bond must be at least \$25,000 and must cover the  
6 cost of the tickets, as well as any reasonable travel expenses  
7 incurred by the consumer because of the failure to deliver. The  
8 department of licensing may adjust the bond amount, not to exceed  
9 \$100,000, based on the reseller's sales volume and consumer  
10 complaints according to rules established by the department. The  
11 department shall establish rules regarding the required bond amount  
12 and the consumer claim process.

13        (3) The department of licensing may enforce collection and shall  
14 oversee the consumer claim process.

15        (4) If a reseller violated the original ticket sellers' contract  
16 and terms for ticket buyers at the time of purchase, the original  
17 ticket sellers may claim compensation from a surety bond, which must  
18 cover the cost of the ticket and associated fees, including credit  
19 card fees, plus other loss of revenue, and reasonable administrative  
20 expenses or legal fees, or both. The department of licensing may  
21 oversee the ticket issuer claim process.

22        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 16.**     (1) Any person who violates this chapter  
23 shall be liable for the following civil penalties:

24        (a) A base penalty of at least \$1,000 for each day the violation  
25 occurs or continues; and

26        (b) An additional penalty equal to the greater of:

27        (i) \$1,000 per ticket listed, advertised, sold, or resold in  
28 violation of this chapter; or

29        (ii) An amount equal to three times the total ticket price of  
30 each ticket listed, advertised, sold, or resold in violation of this  
31 chapter.

32        (2) The department of licensing may take appropriate  
33 administrative action to enforce collection.

34        (3) A consumer who has been subjected to a violation of the price  
35 limitations of section 10 of this act or has purchased a speculative  
36 ticket in violation of section 5 of this act may bring a civil action  
37 against the violating party for damages. Recovery for an action  
38 brought under this subsection is limited to the greater of: (a) Three  
39 times the amount of the initial ticket price; or (b) \$500 per

1 violation. This private right of action is only available where the  
2 consumer can demonstrate actual monetary damages or denial of entry  
3 to the event resulting from the violation. This subsection (3) does  
4 not apply if the tickets are sold as part of a package that includes  
5 additional goods or services such as transportation or lodging.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** (1) The department of licensing shall  
7 establish a publicly accessible website to allow individuals to  
8 report violations of this chapter.

9 (2) The department of licensing shall prepare an annual report on  
10 enforcement actions, penalty collections, and the overall  
11 effectiveness of this chapter in reducing violations, to be submitted  
12 to the relevant legislative committee and made available to the  
13 public.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
15 practices covered by this chapter are matters vitally affecting the  
16 public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection  
17 act, chapter 19.86 RCW. A violation of this chapter is not reasonable  
18 in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an  
19 unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of  
20 competition for purposes of applying the consumer protection act,  
21 chapter 19.86 RCW.

22 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a consumer's  
23 private right of action for a violation of this chapter under chapter  
24 19.86 RCW is limited to only those provisions of this act that  
25 involve fraud, speculative ticketing, bot use, or the failure to  
26 provide a guaranteed refund in the case of a canceled or illegitimate  
27 ticket. No private right of action is authorized for a violation of  
28 administrative requirements or disclosure requirements unless the  
29 violation results in a direct and demonstrable injury to the  
30 consumer.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** (1) A reseller may not request, cause, or  
32 accept a refund, credit, exchange, or cancellation from the primary  
33 ticket seller for any ticket that the reseller has resold, offered  
34 for resale, or transferred to another person for commercial purposes.

35 (2) (a) Any refund or credit obtained in violation of this section  
36 constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice.

1 (b) A reseller who obtains a refund or causes the cancellation of  
2 a ticket after reselling or transferring that ticket is liable for  
3 all resulting losses incurred by the purchaser, the primary ticket  
4 seller, or the event organizer, in addition to any civil penalties  
5 provided under this act.

6 (c) Each ticket refunded or canceled in violation of this section  
7 constitutes a separate violation.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** (1) A reseller may not sell, offer for  
9 sale, advertise, transfer, or distribute a ticket, barcode, or other  
10 access credential to more than one purchaser.

11 (2) A reseller may not reproduce, duplicate, alter, or distribute  
12 a ticket or barcode for the purpose of selling the same ticket to  
13 multiple buyers.

14 (3) A reseller may not knowingly sell or offer for sale a ticket  
15 that has been, or will be, transferred, assigned, or sold to any  
16 other person.

17 (4) Each sale or attempted sale of a ticket that has been  
18 duplicated or resold to more than one person constitutes a separate  
19 violation.

20 (5) Any person who violates this section is liable for civil  
21 penalties under this act and may be subject to license suspension,  
22 revocation, or surety bond claims pursuant to sections 13 and 15 of  
23 this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** If any provision of this act or its  
25 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
26 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
27 persons or circumstances is not affected.

28 **Sec. 22.** RCW 19.345.010 and 2015 c 129 s 2 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
31 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

32 (1) (~~"Admission ticket" means evidence of a right of entry to a~~  
33 ~~venue or an entertainment event.~~

34 ~~(2))~~ "Affinity group" means an identifiable group of people who  
35 are members of the same organization, or who are customers of the  
36 same person, and who enjoy special privileges.

1       (2) "All-in price" means the total cost of an admission ticket,  
2 including all fees and charges that must be paid to purchase the  
3 ticket, other than taxes or actual and verifiable shipping costs,  
4 such as the fee charged by a third-party postal or courier service  
5 for physical delivery, which must be disclosed prior to acceptance of  
6 payment. "All-in price" includes all fees for electronic or digital  
7 delivery regardless of whether the fee is the sole option or selected  
8 by the consumer. The disclosed "all-in price" must be the most  
9 prominent price presented to the consumer.

10       (3) "Event" means a concert, theatrical performance, festival,  
11 sporting event, exhibition, show, comedy performance, or other  
12 similar activity held in this state.

13       (4) "Initial sale" means the first sale of an admission ticket by  
14 the primary ticket seller. "Initial sale" also includes the  
15 distribution of admission tickets under an agreement between the  
16 ticket seller and the recipient.

17       (5) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,  
18 limited liability company, other organization, or any combination  
19 thereof.

20       ~~(6) ("Place of entertainment" means any privately or publicly~~  
21 ~~owned or operated entertainment facility within this state, such as a~~  
22 ~~theater, stadium, museum, arena, park, racetrack, or other place~~  
23 ~~where concerts, theatrical performances, sporting events,~~  
24 ~~exhibitions, shows, or other similar activities are held and for~~  
25 ~~which an entry fee is charged.~~

26       ~~(7) "Presale" means a sale of admission tickets at or below the~~  
27 ~~price printed on the ticket by, or with the permission of, a ticket~~  
28 ~~seller, prior to their release to the general public.~~

29       ~~(8) "Promoter" means a person who organizes financing and~~  
30 ~~publicity for an entertainment event.~~

31       ~~(9) "Ticket seller" means a person that makes admission tickets~~  
32 ~~available, directly or indirectly, at an initial presale or sale to~~  
33 ~~the general public, and may include an owner or operator of a place~~  
34 ~~of entertainment, a sponsor or promoter of an event, a sports team~~  
35 ~~participating in an event, a fan club or affinity group, a theater~~  
36 ~~company, a musical group, or similar participant in an event, or an~~  
37 ~~employee or agent of any such person)) "Primary ticket seller" means~~  
38 the person or entity that has the initial contractual right to sell  
39 the admission tickets for an event directly to the public, which may

1 include the owner or operator of a venue, a promoter, or an  
2 authorized agent of the owner, operator, or promoter.

3 (7) "Resale" means the second or subsequent sale of a ticket by  
4 any method, including in-person transactions, telephone, mail, email,  
5 facsimile, or electronic means through websites or mobile apps.

6 (8) "Reseller" means a person, partnership, corporation, limited  
7 liability company, other organization, or any combination thereof  
8 engaged in the business of the resale of tickets.

9 (9) "Secondary ticket exchange" means an electronic marketplace  
10 enabling the sale, purchase, and resale of tickets.

11 (10) "Speculative ticket" means a ticket not in the actual or  
12 constructive possession of the reseller at the time of listing, sale,  
13 or advertisement. This includes tickets not owned by the reseller or  
14 under contract to be transferred to the reseller at the time of sale.

15 (11) "Ticket" means any form of physical, electronic, or other  
16 evidence that grants the possessor of the evidence license to enter a  
17 place of entertainment or an event.

18 (12) "Ticket issuer" means the person or entity that issues  
19 tickets and terms for the ticket buyers, which may include an artist,  
20 a band, a promoter, a sports team, a venue, a theater, a club, or a  
21 festival.

22 (13) "Ticket resale marketplace" means a person or entity that  
23 operates a platform or exchange to facilitate the resale or offering  
24 for resale of admission tickets between third parties, which includes  
25 platforms or exchanges operating by means of an internet website,  
26 application, phone system, or other similar technology, and who does  
27 not generally maintain their own ticket inventory, and which may  
28 include a ticket seller.

29 **Sec. 23.** RCW 19.345.020 and 2015 c 129 s 3 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) A person may not:

32 (a) Use software to circumvent, thwart, interfere with, or evade  
33 a security measure, access control system, or other control or  
34 measure on a ticket seller's internet website; or

35 (b) Sell software that is advertised for profit with the express  
36 purpose to circumvent, thwart, interfere with, or evade a security  
37 measure, access control system, or other control or measure on a  
38 ticket seller's internet website.

1 (2) The use or sale of software as described in subsection (1) of  
2 this section only violates this section if the user or seller knows  
3 or should know that the purpose of the software is to circumvent,  
4 thwart, interfere with, or evade a security measure, access control  
5 system, or other control or measure on a ticket seller's internet  
6 website.

7 (3) ~~((The legislature finds that the conduct described in~~  
8 ~~subsection (1) of this section vitally affects the public interest~~  
9 ~~for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter~~  
10 ~~19.86 RCW. Using or selling software to circumvent, thwart, or evade~~  
11 ~~a control or measure, which is used on a ticket seller's internet~~  
12 ~~website to ensure an equitable distribution of tickets, is not~~  
13 ~~reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of~~  
14 ~~business and is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and~~  
15 ~~an unfair method of competition for the purposes of applying the~~  
16 ~~consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW)) It is an unfair or  
17 deceptive act or practice for any person to engage in the business of  
18 a ticket reseller or ticket resale marketplace without:~~

19 (a) Clearly and conspicuously disclosing the all-in price before  
20 a consumer selects a ticket to purchase, and an itemized breakdown of  
21 the base ticket price and all additional fees, charges, and taxes,  
22 before acceptance of payment, except for actual shipping costs that  
23 are disclosed before payment acceptance. The all-in price must be  
24 displayed in a font size and prominence that is equal to or greater  
25 than the base ticket price and any service fee;

26 (b) Ensuring that the price of a ticket does not increase from  
27 the time it is selected by a consumer to the time of purchase;

28 (c) Disclosing their name, and their business address. For any  
29 entity whose principal place of business is outside of Washington  
30 state, the disclosure must also include the name and contact  
31 information of a registered agent or agent for service of process in  
32 Washington state;

33 (d) Providing a readily accessible path to contacting for  
34 complaints, customer service, and inquiries, including telephone  
35 number, email address, a standard refund policy, and virtual support,  
36 with anticipated response time, and guaranteeing a response to  
37 consumer inquiries within three business days;

38 (e) Providing the actual location of seats if reserved, or  
39 section, if applicable, if there is a general admission event;

1 (f) Providing clear and conspicuous disclosure of any  
2 restrictions on entry to the venue and limitations or restrictions on  
3 resale or transferability;

4 (g) (i) Guaranteeing a full refund to a purchaser within two weeks  
5 if the event for which the ticket was resold is canceled;

6 (ii) A nonprofit event presenter that offers a purchaser the  
7 ability to choose between receiving a full refund in the event of a  
8 cancellation or another option, including donating the amount paid  
9 for their ticket to the nonprofit, or receiving an exchange or gift  
10 certificate shall be understood to be compliant with (g) (i) of this  
11 subsection;

12 (h) Providing the original face value of the ticket alongside the  
13 resellers' price, and in the same currency. This disclosure must be  
14 located directly adjacent to the resellers' price and be of  
15 comparable font size;

16 (i) Providing clear and conspicuous disclosure that the person is  
17 a reseller and not an official ticket seller; and

18 (j) Guaranteeing a full refund to a purchaser within two weeks if  
19 the ticket is not legitimate; or the purchaser is denied entrance  
20 into the facility due to violation of permissive terms by the  
21 reseller.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. Sections 1 through 20 of this act are  
23 each added to chapter 19.345 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 25. This act may be known and cited as the  
25 Washington access and venue equity act or the WAVE act.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 26. This act takes effect July 1, 2027.

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