TICKET POLICY FORUM

POLICY BRIEF

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TicketPolicyForum.org

Massachusetts Live Event Ticketing Legislation

OPPOSE Resale Price Caps on Tickets

The Senate Economic Development Bill includes a live event ticketing amendment that among other things, will cap the amount ticketholders can resell their purchased concert tickets at no more than 110% of original price paid. This proposal is supported by Live Nation/Ticketmaster. The company is lobbying to price cap its competitors (but not itself) state-to-state and at the federal level. No one should be following the playbook of a company just found **liable by a federal jury for maintaining an illegal monopoly**, after being sued by a coalition of more than 30 states, including Massachusetts' Attorney General Joy Campbell.

Considering the vast majority of tickets purchased by Massachusetts fans are sold by Ticketmaster-run venue box offices, Ticketmaster's predatory dynamic and platinum pricing and other schemes should not be exempt from ticketing legislation. Doing so means ticket prices will continue to rise (not go down) and arbitrarily constrains the only companies competing with Ticketmaster to offer another option when comparison shopping for tickets. While we believe price controls are poor public policy and send fraud skyrocketing, no government should consider such controls in a one-sided manner that is intent on foreclosing Ticketmaster competitors.

> "Live Nation and Ticketmaster are running a monopoly, according to a federal jury in April. Ticket prices have been soaring well before they hit the resale market…" ***– The Boston Globe, 8/7/26***

THE DOMINO EFFECT — HOW PRICE CONTROLS STRENGTHEN TICKETMASTER

Ticketmaster benefits because it controls and manipulates box office prices; the baseline any price cap would rely on.

Price Controls ⇒	**Rivals Squeezed Out** ⇒	**Fans Forced Back to Ticketmaster** ⇒	**Ticketmaster Raises Fees** ⇒	**Fans Lose**
Government limits on resale prices and fees (yet Ticketmaster primary ticketing exempt?)	Independent sellers and marketplaces forced out	Monopoly regains control. Discount tickets on resale vanish.	Empowers box office dynamic and "platinum" pricing by Ticketmaster.	**Won't lower ticket prices. Less choice. More fraud.**

THREE FATAL FLAWS OF RESALE PRICE CAPS

Unequal - It only caps resale prices and resale fees. Box offices (most often Ticketmaster) can still raise prices in real time through dynamic pricing or platinum pricing (same ticket, fancy name, higher cost) with zero restriction. A venue can charge whatever the market will bear today, a fan who already bought a ticket cannot. Capping fees pushes businesses out, while Ticketmaster's 30-40% fees remain the norm. That's not consumer protection, it's an unlevel playing field.

Unenforceable - Marketplaces don't have access to what the original seller paid. Proprietary ticketing systems don't share data. Marketplaces would have to rely on sellers' honesty - who can fake proof of purchase.

Unsafe - Without the choice of regulated marketplace platforms to buy and sell tickets, fans will turn to social media, cash exchanges, and encrypted chats for access to live events. No identity checks. No refunds. No recourse.

EXPERT VIEW

"Price controls on resale tickets would be an indisputable win for Ticketmaster — and a crushing loss for consumers and artists."

Diana Moss — Progressive Policy Institute

FRAUD RISK

4x

Higher fraud rates in price-controlled markets like Ireland, France and parts of Australia vs. regulated open marketplaces. Underground resale creates a scammer's paradise.

Source: Bradshaw Advisory

FRAUD IN THE HEADLINES

BBC NEWS	THE IRISH TIMES	BANK OF IRELAND
Taylor Swift fans lose £1m in scams, Lloyds Bank estimates Apr 17, 2024	**Taylor Swift fans warned of ticket scams ahead of Dublin concerts** Jun 24, 2024	**Bank of Ireland urges music fans to act 'Swiftly' on ticket scams** Jun 24, 2024

THE REAL SOLUTION FOR FANS

1. **Enhanced consumer transparency**, disclosure, and protections across all ticket sales
2. **Let ticketholders set the price** of their own tickets when they resell
3. **Ensure new policies apply equally to the the full consumer market** - not just resale

ABOUT TICKET POLICY FORUM

The Ticket Policy Forum is a 501(c)6 advocacy coalition of the major professional ticket marketplaces in the U.S.