

HOUSE No. 1991

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Moran

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to reform the issuance and sale of sports and entertainment tickets.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael J. Moran

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

18th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 1991

By Mr. Moran of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1991) of Michael J. Moran relative to the issuance and sale of sports and entertainment tickets. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4335 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to reform the issuance and sale of sports and entertainment tickets.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 182A the following section:-

3 Section 182B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, an operator of a
4 place of entertainment, or operator's agent, shall not employ a paperless ticketing system unless
5 the consumer is offered an option in a clear and conspicuous manner at the time of initial sale to
6 purchase the same tickets in some other form without additional fees.

7 SECTION 2. Section 185A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing in 2014
8 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following
9 paragraph:-

10 “Ticket reseller shall mean any person, entity, corporation or association engaged in the
11 business of reselling, offering for resale, or negotiating the resale of tickets of admission or other
12 evidence of right of entry to any sporting event, theatrical exhibition, public show, or public
13 amusement or exhibition, including the officers, agents and employees of such person, entity,
14 corporation or association. A person, entity, corporation, or association shall be deemed to be
15 “engaged in the business of resale” if such person, entity, corporation, or association has sold
16 more than 80 tickets, sets of tickets, or right of entry by means of telephone, mail, delivery
17 service, facsimile, internet, email or other electronic means in the preceding twelve months. A
18 resale shall not include the initial sale of any event ticket by the original ticket seller or an online
19 marketplace.”

20 SECTION 3. Section 185A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
21 hereby amended by deleting the second paragraph of this section.

22 SECTION 4. Chapter 140 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out section
23 185D, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

24 Section 185D. Consumer protection standards relative to the reselling of tickets:

25 (a) Any person engaged in the business of the resale of a ticket, and any online
26 marketplace shall:

27 (1) maintain at all times a toll-free telephone number and an e-mail address or other
28 means of contact approved by regulation for complaints and inquiries regarding its activities in
29 the resale of event tickets;

30 (2) implement and reasonably publicize a standard refund policy that meets the minimum
31 standards stated in subsection (b); and

32 (3) take reasonable measures to safeguard against the resale of counterfeit tickets
33 purchased from the reseller.

34 (b) The standard refund policy by such person or online marketplace:

35 (1) shall provide a consumer who purchases an event ticket a full refund if: (i) the event
36 is cancelled before the scheduled occurrence of the event, and is not re-scheduled; (ii) the event
37 ticket does not provide access to the event or venue of the event, provided the date and time of
38 the event are correct on the event ticket; (iii) the event ticket has been cancelled by the ticket
39 issuer for non-payment by the original purchaser, or for any reason other than an act or omission
40 of the consumer; (iv) the event ticket materially and to the detriment of the consumer fails to
41 conform to the description provided by the seller or person engaged in the business of resale; or
42 (v) the event ticket was not delivered to the consumer prior to the occurrence of the event, unless
43 such failure of delivery was due to any act or omission of the consumer;

44 (2) shall include in a full refund the full price paid by the consumer for the event ticket,
45 together with any fees charged in connection with that purchase, including but not limited to
46 convenience fees, processing fees, at-home printing charges, but excluding shipping or delivery
47 fees, and

48 (3) may condition entitlement to a refund upon timely return of the ticket purchased, and
49 may include reasonable safeguards against abuse of the policy.

50 (c) Provision of a replacement ticket that is of equal value and in a comparable location,
51 at no additional charge to the consumer, shall be considered providing a full refund for the
52 purposes of subsection (b).

53 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person, entity or association,
54 or an agent of any such person, entity or association subject to this section from implementing
55 consumer protection policies that exceed the minimum standard set forth in this section, and that
56 are otherwise compliant with this act.

57 (e) A ticket reseller or online marketplace shall be prohibited from using any automated
58 system, software or other technology designed or produced for the purpose of purchasing tickets
59 from a ticket issuer for the purpose of resale on the secondary market.

60 (f) The department of public safety shall keep a record of all licensed ticket resellers
61 operating in the commonwealth and shall make the list accessible to the public. This record shall
62 include, but not be limited to: (1) the licensee's name, mailing address, telephone number and
63 email address; (2) the length of time the licensee has been licensed in commonwealth; and (3) the
64 number of complaints and the type of complaint that has been filed against the licensee.

65 SECTION 5. Section 185E of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
66 hereby amended by deleting the last sentence of this section.