

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9375



Introduced by Abang Lingkod Party-list Representative
Manuel "Manman" O. Ko

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ticket scalping has become a widespread and increasingly sophisticated practice that deprives the public of fair and reasonable access to entertainment, cultural, and sporting events. Through bulk purchasing schemes and the use of automated software or "ticket bots," scalpers acquire large quantities of tickets and resell them at grossly inflated prices, effectively manipulating supply and exploiting consumer demand. This practice undermines consumer welfare, distorts legitimate market transactions, fosters fraudulent activities, and excludes ordinary patrons from participating in cultural and recreational events that should remain accessible to all.

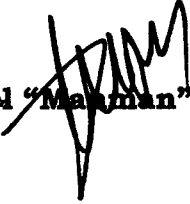
Although the Consumer Act of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 7394) prohibits deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable trade practices, no specific statutory framework presently exists that directly regulates ticket scalping or addresses the unique challenges posed by digital resale platforms and automated purchasing technology. The absence of clear legislative standards has resulted in weak enforcement capabilities, inconsistent regulation of resale platforms, and limited consumer remedies against abusive resale schemes.

This measure seeks to fill that gap by expressly defining ticket scalping as an unfair trade practice, setting a reasonable ceiling on resale markups, regulating ticket resale platforms, prohibiting bot-driven bulk purchasing, and imposing graduated penalties proportionate to the offense. At the same time, the bill safeguards legitimate consumer transactions by allowing limited private resale at or below modest markup thresholds and exempting bona fide charitable and promotional transfers.

By providing a balanced regulatory framework that protects consumers without unreasonably restricting legitimate secondary markets, this proposed legislation

strengthens fair market practices, enhances consumer confidence, and promotes equitable access to public events.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Manuel "Manny" O. Ko

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House Bill No. **9375**

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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE HOARDING, RESALE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF
ADMISSION TICKETS THROUGH UNAUTHORIZED CHANNELS AT
UNCONSCIONABLE PRICES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Anti Ticket Scalping Act*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen consumer protection as mandated by Republic Act No. 7394. The State recognizes the right of the consumer to fair market access, digital consumer protection, proportional regulation and honest dealing by protecting them against deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable sales acts and practices that deny legitimate fans and consumers fair access to entertainment, cultural, and sporting events. The State shall implement measures to curb speculative reselling that exploits consumer vulnerability and urgent demand.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – *As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:*

- a. *Admission Ticket* refers to evidence of a right of entry to an Entertainment Event, whether printed, physical, or digital.
- b. *Entertainment Event* refers to any public event, occasion, occurrence, or activity that provides amusement or recreation and involves the distribution of admission tickets (e.g., concerts, sports shows, stage performances, festivals, and fan meets).

c. *Total Original Purchase Price* refers to the sum of the Face Value Price and all mandatory service charges, taxes, and convenience fees paid by the initial purchaser at the time of the original transaction from the authorized seller.

d. *Resale* refers to the act of selling admission tickets previously acquired by the purchaser to a third party.

e. *Unconscionable Price* refers to a resale price that reflects a grossly excessive markup over the Total Original Purchase Price. A markup shall be deemed grossly excessive if it exceeds the Anti-Scalping Price Ceiling set by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). In the absence of a prevailing DTI administrative order specifically adjusting this threshold, a markup exceeding ten percent (10%) of the Total Original Purchase Price shall be *prima facie* evidence of an unconscionable price.

f. *Ticket Bot* refers to automated software, digital tools, or any technological means, whether operating locally or via remote servers, designed to bypass security controls, purchasing limits, or "waiting room" protocols on an official ticketing platform.

g. *Resale Platform* refers to any digital service, website, or social media group/page that facilitates the advertisement or transaction of ticket resales between third parties.

SECTION 4. Ticket Scalping as an Unfair Sales Act. – The following acts shall constitute ticket scalping and are hereby declared as unfair and unconscionable sales acts and practices consistent with the principles of Republic Act No. 7394

(a) *Reselling or offering for resale tickets at an Unconscionable Price;*

(b) *Hoarding or bulk purchasing tickets for the primary purpose of resale at an Unconscionable Price;*

(c) *Using or employing Ticket Bots or other circumvention technologies to acquire tickets in quantities greater than platform limits;*

(d) *Operating or financing organized ticket scalping enterprises;*

(e) *Selling, offering, or distributing counterfeit, invalid, or fraudulently obtained tickets, without prejudice to prosecution under the Revised Penal Code or applicable special laws;*

(f) *Engaging in misrepresentation, concealment, or deceptive conduct as to ticket origin, eligibility, pricing, or authenticity;*

(g) Operating unregistered resale platforms that enable or tolerate prohibited scalping activities.

All foregoing acts are punishable whether committed online, electronically, or in person.

SECTION 5. Other Prohibited Acts. – The following are likewise prohibited:

- a. Selling or advertising tickets without clear disclosure of the Face Value Price and resale price;*
- b. Wilfully aiding, abetting, or conspiring in the commission of any offense under this Act;*
- c. Attempting to commit any prohibited act under this Act.*

SECTION 6. Exemptions. – The following transactions shall not constitute violations:

- a. Occasional Private Resale- Private resale of tickets at or below the permitted markup of ten percent (10%) shall not constitute a violation, provided that:*
 - 1. The seller does not offer more than six (6) tickets for a single event and does not exceed the official ticketing platform purchase limits or organizer-issued limits;*
 - 2. The seller does not engage in such activity for more than three (3) distinct events within a calendar year; and*
 - 3. The activity is not conducted through a registered business entity or a platform dedicated to professional reselling.;*
- b. Legitimate ticket transfers made under sponsorship agreements, promotions, or donations authorized by event organizers;*
- c. Bona fide block purchases for charitable, educational, or religious activities duly authorized by the event producer or organizer.*

SECTION 7. Regulation of Ticket Resale. –

a. Permissible Resale. - Lawfully purchased tickets may be resold provided that:

- 1. The selling price does not exceed the Total Original Purchase Price plus the allowable markup threshold as defined under the prevailing Anti-Scalping Price Ceiling; and*
- 2. The buyer is fully informed of the ticket's original price and markup.*

b. *Platform Registration.* - All entities operating resale platforms must be registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and comply with all consumer protection and disclosure regulations.

c. *Mandatory Disclosure.* - All resale advertisements or listings must clearly display:

1. Face Value Price;
2. Resale Price;
3. Seller name or registered platform identification number; and
4. All applicable fees or taxes.

d. *Anti-Bot Requirements.* - Primary ticket sellers and resale platforms shall implement adequate technological safeguards to detect and prevent Ticket Bot usage or bulk acquisition fraud.

SECTION 8. Duties and Responsibilities of Covered Entities. – Entities engaged in event ticketing and production shall be mandated to:

a. *Information Disclosure:* Clearly and conspicuously post, publish, or display digital and/or physical signages on their websites and premises warning against ticket scalping and providing the Face Value Price of all tickets being sold.

b. *Anti-Scalping Measures:* Adopt, implement, and enforce internal policy guidelines and use technological prevention mechanisms to deter ticket scalping activities by employees, contractors, and agents.

c. Cooperate with enforcement agencies in investigations, takedowns, and compliance audits.

SECTION 9. Monitoring and Enforcement. –

a. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall serve as the primary enforcement agency for this Act, in coordination with the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other concerned agencies.

b. The DTI shall establish an accessible public complaint mechanism for reporting violations and conducting prompt investigations.

c. Online resale platforms that knowingly allow prohibited scalping activities may be ordered to remove listings, suspend seller accounts, pay administrative fines or face criminal prosecution as appropriate.

d. The DTI, in coordination with the CICC, is hereby authorized to issue summary "Notice and Takedown" orders to internet service providers (ISPs), search engines, and social media platforms to restrict access to, or remove, specific listings, advertisements, or accounts found to be in flagrant violation of Sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

Provided, That such orders shall be issued as a summary administrative remedy to prevent immediate consumer prejudice; Provided further, That the issuance of such orders shall strictly adhere to the principles of due process, including the provision of notice to the affected parties and a clear mechanism for the contestation or appeal of the order within seventy-two (72) hours of implementation; Provided finally, That the exercise of this power shall be subject to the guidelines and safeguards set forth in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act to prevent any infringement on the freedom of speech or the right to property without due process of law.

e. **Presumption of Scalping-** The possession of, or the offer to sell, tickets in quantities exceeding the official limit set by the event organizer shall create a prima facie presumption that such tickets were acquired for the purpose of scalping.

SECTION 10. Penalties. – The following penalties shall be imposed as follows:

a) *For violations under Section 4:*

1) For the first offense, a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP 100,000.00) or imprisonment of six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

2) For the second offense, a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP 500,000.00) or imprisonment of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

3) For third and subsequent offenses, a fine of Two Million Pesos (PHP 2,000,000.00), or imprisonment of six (6) years, or both.

(b) *Penalties for Other Prohibited Acts (Section 5)* - Violations of Section 5 shall be penalized with a fine of not less than ₱50,000.00 but not more than ₱250,000.00, or imprisonment of six (6) months to one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.]

(c) **Organized Scalping Syndicates and Aggravated Violations.** – Any person, group, or entity engaged in organized, coordinated, or large-scale ticket scalping operations, including:

1. Use or operation of Ticket Bots;

2. Operation of counterfeit ticket schemes;
3. Financing or managing organized ticket scalping enterprises;
4. Coordinated digital resale operations using fraudulent or deceptive methods;
5. Large-scale violations involving multiple events or substantial public injury;

shall suffer:

- (i) a fine of not less than Two Million Pesos (₱3,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (₱5,000,000.00); and
- (ii) imprisonment of three (3) years to six (6) years.

(d) *Juridical Persons*- If the offender is a corporation, partnership, association, or other juridical entity, the criminal liability shall be imposed upon the responsible officers who directly participated in, authorized, or knowingly allowed the commission of the violation.

(e) *Foreign Digital Platforms*- Foreign-based resale platforms conducting business with Philippine consumers may be subject to access restriction orders, administrative penalties, or other lawful enforcement actions consistent with Philippine law and international obligations.

(f) *Without Prejudice Clause*. – Prosecution under this Act shall be without prejudice to liability under the Revised Penal Code, the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the Electronic Commerce Act, and other applicable laws.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DTI, in coordination with the DOJ, DILG, and NBI, shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation, including the periodic review of the ten percent (10%) markup threshold.

a.) *Periodic Threshold Review*. The DTI shall have the authority to issue an Administrative Order to adjust the "Anti-Scalping Price Ceiling" based on prevailing market conditions, inflation, or the nature of the Entertainment Event (e.g., charitable vs. commercial), provided that such review occurs no more than once every two (2) years, unless extraordinary market distortions require more frequent intervention.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,