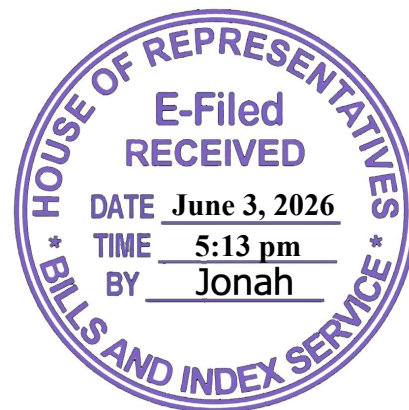


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9757



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Gabriela Women's Party)
RENEE LOUISE M. CO (Kabataan Partylist)
and **ANTONIO L. TINIO (ACT Teachers Partylist)**

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SELLING AND/OR BUYING OF ADMISSION
TICKETS THROUGH UNAUTHORIZED SALES CHANNELS AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, the Filipino public, particularly the youth, women, and the working class, has been increasingly subjected to the predatory practices of ticket scalping. Concerts, fan meetings, cultural and sports events, and other forms of entertainment are vital avenues for social expression, community building, and relief from the daily struggle. However, the commodification of these events has given rise to parasitic entities and individuals who exploit high demand by hoarding tickets through deceptive means, only to resell them at unconscionable and exorbitant prices.

The rise of digital technology has further aggravated this exploitation. The use of automated bots and sophisticated software allows unscrupulous entities to bypass security measures and purchase limits, effectively hijacking the inventory of tickets before the general public can access them. Such practices are not merely "market-driven" transactions; they are a form of economic sabotage that disenfranchises the masses and concentrates access to culture in the hands of the few who can afford inflated rates.

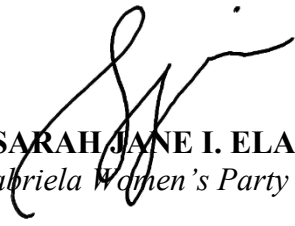
This bill seeks to penalize ticket scalping acts and protect the interests of the consuming public. By setting clear definitions and prohibitions, the State asserts its role in regulating the market to prevent the exploitation of the people's desire for recreation and cultural participation.

The salient features of this Bill include:

- Defines and penalizes the act of reselling tickets at a markup higher than ten percent (10%) of the face value, ensuring that tickets remain accessible to the intended audience.
- Criminalizes the use of software, scripts, or any deceptive technology designed to bypass purchase limits and security controls on ticketing platforms, thereby leveling the playing field for all consumers.
- Mandates event organizers and ticketing entities to implement internal policies, signages, and reporting mechanisms to prevent scalping within their systems.
- Provides for graduated fines and imprisonment for violators, with specific provisions for corporate accountability, to serve as a strong deterrent against large-scale scalping operations.
- Provides exemptions for private, non-commercial, and occasional resales at or below face value, ensuring that the law targets predatory hoarders rather than ordinary citizens.

Through this measure, we take a decisive step toward curbing scalping practices that turn culture and entertainment into tools of exploitation. We must ensure that access to these events is determined by fair opportunity.

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



REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Gabriela Women's Party



REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
Kabataan Partylist



REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Partylist

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Ticket Scalping Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumers, promote their general welfare, and establish standards of conduct for business and industry. The State recognizes that access to cultural, educational, sporting, and entertainment events is a right that should not be hindered by predatory and exploitative practices.

In line with the constitutional mandate to regulate monopolies and prohibit combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition, the State shall curb ticket scalping and the hoarding of tickets through digital means, which artificially inflate prices and deprive the Filipino people, especially the youth and the working class, of affordable access to such events.

Towards this end, the State shall implement measures to protect the consumers against deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable sales acts and practices.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. -

- a. *Admission Ticket* refers to any document, voucher, token, item, barcode, quick response (QR) code, or other form of access credentials, whether in physical, printed, or digital format, that grants the holder the right to enter a venue or participate in an Entertainment Event;
- b. *Automated Bot* refers to a software, program, script, medium, or any other type of technology or means that is designed to automatically purchase multiple tickets online,

and/or bypass security measures, access control systems, Purchase Limit, or other technological control on a ticketing website, application, or service, in a manner that disrupts fair access for the general public;

- c. *Entertainment Event* refers to any event, performance, exhibition, gathering, occasion, occurrence or activity that provides amusement or recreation organized by an event organizer, which are open to the public and involves the distribution of admission tickets such as sports shows, concerts, stage performances, beauty pageants, festivals, road shows, fan meetings, movie screenings or any similar activities;
- d. *Event Organizer* refers to natural or juridical person who produces, coordinates, plans, manages, and executes an Entertainment Event;
- e. *Face Value* refers to the purchase price of an Admission Ticket as determined by the Event Organizer or its authorized ticketing agent, and printed on the ticket itself, but shall exclude all applicable charges and fees set by Event Organizer or its authorized ticketing agent;
- f. *Official Ticketing Platform* refers to the: (i) online or electronic platform, website, mobile application, device, or other similar online or electronic service; or (ii) physical outlet, booth, store, or any other media or platform, that is/are designated or authorized by the Event Organizer or its authorized ticketing agent to handle the legitimate sale of Admission Tickets;
- g. *Purchase Limit* refers to the maximum number of Admission Tickets that a single consumer purchaser may legally purchase for a particular Entertainment Event, that is determined by the Event Organizer and/or its authorized ticketing agent, for specific Entertainment Events;
- h. *Resale or Reselling* refers to the act of selling or, offering for sale, advertising, listing, or otherwise conveying or transferring for consideration, any Admission Ticket that has already been purchased or acquired by another; and
- i. *Unauthorized Seller* refers to any person or entity selling or distributing Admission Tickets without the written authorization, designation, or consent of the Event Organizer or its authorized ticketing agent.

Section 4. Prohibition of Ticket Scalping. - The following acts shall constitute ticket scalping, whether committed online or in person:

- a. Offering, hoarding, selling, distributing, assisting, buying, dealing in, disposing of or otherwise obtaining admission tickets for entertainment events, without the written permission from the authorized event producer, organizer and distributor, for the purpose of reselling for more than ten percent (10%) higher than the face value price of the ticket; Provided, that the ten percent (10%) increase or markup shall be subject to the periodic review and update by the implementing agencies;
- b. Financing, managing, or operating ticket scalping activities;
- c. Using Automated Bot, fake accounts, false identities, multiple accounts, or other similar deceptive, misleading, fraudulent means, media, or technologies, to gain unauthorized access to ticket inventories, bypass security controls and measures, or circumvent the Purchase Limits, for the purpose of acquiring Admission Tickets; and

- d. Facilitating the resale of scalped tickets through online platforms or physical marketplaces.

Section 5. Other Offenses. - The following shall also constitute as offenses under this Act:

- a. Offering or selling admission tickets for entertainment events without providing the face value price on each ticket;
- b. Selling of admission tickets which were acquired free-of-charge or complimentary;
- c. Selling admission tickets on any platform other than the authorized reselling platform;
- d. Willfully aiding or abetting in the commission of any of the offenses enumerated under Section 4; and
- e. Willfully attempting to commit any of the offenses enumerated under Section 4.

Section 6. Duties and Responsibilities of Event Organizers and Ticketing Platforms. -

Within sixty (60) days from the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act, all persons, whether natural or juridical, engaged in the business of event ticketing, event production, and event services that organizes, sells, distributes or resells admission tickets shall post, publish or display digital and/or physical signages on their websites and on conspicuous places within their premises, warning against ticket scalping. In addition, these entities are also mandated to adopt, implement, and enforce respective internal policy guidelines, prevention, and reporting mechanisms on ticket scalping. They are mandated to monitor suspicious transactions and report suspected scalping activities to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Section 7. Institution of Complaint. - The Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through its relevant bureaus or attached agencies, the Department of Interior Local Government (DILG), including all law enforcement agencies, or any person who has knowledge of the commission of any prohibited act under Sections 4 or 5 may institute a complaint for violation of this Act before the Regional Trial Court having territorial jurisdiction over the place where the violation was committed or the place of business or residence of either the complainant or respondent.

Section 8. Penalties. -

- a. The following penalties shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of any act prohibited in Section 4 hereof:
 - i. 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;
 - ii. For the second offense, a fine of Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php 250,000.00) or imprisonment of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court; and
 - iii. For the third and subsequent offenses, a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (Php 500,000.00) or imprisonment of three (3) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.
- b. The following penalties shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of any act prohibited in Sections 5 hereof:

- i. For the first offense, a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00);
 - ii. For the second 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;
 - iii. For the third and subsequent offenses, a fine of Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php 250,000.00) or imprisonment of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court; and
- c. If the offender is a corporation, partnership, or any juridical person, the penalty may, at the discretion of the court, be imposed upon such corporation and/or upon its directors, trustees, stockholders, members, officers, or employees responsible for the violation or indispensable to its commission.

Section 9. Exemptions. - The following shall not be considered as offenses under this Act:

- a. The occasional resale of admission tickets by private individuals at or below the face value; Provided, that the number of tickets being sold does not exceed the set purchase limit, and such resale is not conducted in the ordinary course of trade or business; or
- b. Distribution or selling of tickets as part of legitimate sponsorship agreements, marketing promotions, or other legitimate activities authorized by the event organizer.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for implementing the law.

Section 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected by shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,