
HOUSE BILL 1613

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Springer, and Macri

Read first time 01/27/25. Referred to Committee on Consumer Protection & Business.

1 AN ACT Relating to ticket sales; amending RCW 19.345.010,
2 19.345.020, 43.24.150, and 18.235.020; adding new sections to chapter
3 19.345 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.345.010 and 2015 c 129 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Admission ticket" means evidence of a right of entry to a
10 venue or an entertainment event.

11 (2) "Affinity group" means an identifiable group of people who
12 are members of the same organization, or who are customers of the
13 same person, and who enjoy special privileges.

14 (3) "All-in price" means the total cost of an admission ticket,
15 including the base price, all fees, which may include, but are not
16 limited to, a service fee, processing fee, electronic delivery fee,
17 facility fee, and resale fee that must be paid to purchase the
18 admission ticket.

19 (4) "Base price" means the dollar value of an admission ticket,
20 which value must reflect the dollar amount that the customer is
21 required to pay, and which excludes any charges, fees, and taxes.

1 (5) "Department" means the department of licensing.

2 (6) "Director" means the director of the department of licensing.

3 (7) "Event" means a concert, theatrical performance, sporting
4 event, exhibition, show, or other similar activity held in this
5 state.

6 ~~((4))~~ (8) "Initial sale" means the first sale of an admission
7 ticket by the ticket seller. "Initial sale" also includes the
8 distribution of admission tickets under an agreement between the
9 ticket seller and the recipient.

10 ~~((5))~~ (9) "Internet domain name" means a globally unique,
11 hierarchical reference to an internet host or server, which is
12 assigned through a centralized internet naming authority, and which
13 is composed of a series of character strings separated by periods
14 with the rightmost string specifying the top of the hierarchy.

15 (10) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
16 limited liability company, other organization, or any combination
17 thereof.

18 ~~((6))~~ (11) "Place of entertainment" means any privately or
19 publicly owned or operated entertainment facility within this state,
20 such as a theater, stadium, museum, arena, park, racetrack, or other
21 place where concerts, theatrical performances, sporting events,
22 exhibitions, shows, or other similar activities are held and for
23 which an entry fee is charged.

24 ~~((7))~~ (12) "Presale" means a sale of admission tickets at or
25 below the ~~((price printed on the ticket by))~~ base price, or with the
26 permission of, a ticket seller, prior to their release to the general
27 public, and which may include an initial sale.

28 ~~((8))~~ (13) "Promoter" means a person who organizes financing
29 and publicity for an entertainment event.

30 ~~((9))~~ (14) "Resale" means a subsequent sale of an admission
31 ticket other than the initial sale or presale of an admission ticket.

32 (15) "Ticket resale marketplace" means a person or entity that
33 operates a platform or exchange to facilitate the resale or offering
34 for resale of admission tickets between third parties, which includes
35 platforms or exchanges operating by means of an internet website,
36 application, phone system, or other similar technology, and who does
37 not generally maintain their own ticket inventory, and which may
38 include a ticket seller.

39 (16) "Ticket reseller" means a person or entity that resells or
40 offers for resale admission tickets.

1 (a) Use software to circumvent, thwart, interfere with, or evade
2 a security measure, access control system, or other control or
3 measure on a ticket seller's internet website, application, phone
4 system, or similar technology that is used to enforce posted event
5 admission ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of
6 posted online admission ticket purchasing order rules; or

7 (b) Sell software that is advertised for profit with the express
8 purpose to circumvent, thwart, interfere with, or evade a security
9 measure, access control system, or other control or measure on a
10 ticket seller's internet website, application, phone system, or
11 similar technology that is used to enforce posted event admission
12 ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted
13 online admission ticket purchasing order rules.

14 (2) The use or sale of software as described in subsection (1) of
15 this section only violates this section if the user or seller knows
16 or should know that the purpose of the software is to circumvent,
17 thwart, interfere with, or evade a security measure, access control
18 system, or other control or measure on a ticket seller's internet
19 website, application, phone system, or similar technology that is
20 used to enforce posted event admission ticket purchasing limits or to
21 maintain the integrity of posted online admission ticket purchasing
22 order rules.

23 (3) A person may not knowingly resell or offer to resell an
24 admission ticket that was obtained using software to circumvent,
25 thwart, interfere with, or evade a security measure, access control
26 system, or other control or measure on a ticket seller's internet
27 website, application, phone system, or similar technology that is
28 used to enforce posted event admission ticket purchasing limits or to
29 maintain the integrity of posted online admission ticket purchasing
30 order rules, and was not obtained for the person's own use or the use
31 of their invitees, employees, or agents.

32 (4) The legislature finds that the conduct described in
33 subsections (1) and (3) of this section and section 12 of this act
34 vitally affects the public interest for the purpose of applying the
35 consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Using or selling software
36 to circumvent, thwart, or evade a control or measure, which is used
37 on a ticket seller's internet website, application, phone system, or
38 similar technology to ensure an equitable distribution of tickets, is
39 not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of
40 business and is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and

1 an unfair method of competition for the purposes of applying the
2 consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

3 (5) Ticket sellers have an affirmative obligation to notify the
4 attorney general of the use of software as described in this section.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Businesses domiciled outside the state of
6 Washington are subject to Washington law when selling admission
7 tickets to events in this state, regardless of where the buyer and
8 seller are domiciled.

9 **TICKET SALES LICENSE**

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) In order to engage in the business of
11 a ticket seller, ticket reseller, or ticket resale marketplace, a
12 person must:

13 (a) Apply to the department for a ticket sales license on a form
14 designated by the department, pay an annual license fee, and renew
15 the license annually;

16 (b) Be registered with the department of revenue pursuant to RCW
17 82.32.030 and, if an ownership entity other than sole proprietor or
18 general partnership, be registered with the secretary of state for a
19 business license to do business in this state; and

20 (c) Comply with the requirements of this chapter and department
21 rules adopted under this chapter.

22 (2) A ticket sales license may only be granted upon an
23 application setting forth such information as the department may
24 require. The license must include an endorsement from the department
25 indicating whether the licensee is engaging in the business of a
26 ticket seller, ticket reseller, or ticket resale marketplace. The
27 department must require applicants to disclose in their applications
28 whether the applicant owns, is owned by, or shares common ownership
29 with any other ticket seller or ticket reseller.

30 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.24.150 and 2017 c 281 s 40 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The business and professions account is created in the state
33 treasury. All receipts from business or professional licenses,
34 registrations, certifications, renewals, examinations, or civil
35 penalties assessed and collected by the department from the following
36 chapters must be deposited into the account:

- 1 (a) Chapter 18.11 RCW, auctioneers;
2 (b) Chapter 18.16 RCW, cosmetologists, barbers, and manicurists;
3 (c) Chapter 18.145 RCW, court reporters;
4 (d) Chapter 18.165 RCW, private investigators;
5 (e) Chapter 18.170 RCW, security guards;
6 (f) Chapter 18.185 RCW, bail bond agents;
7 (g) Chapter 18.280 RCW, home inspectors;
8 (h) Chapter 19.16 RCW, collection agencies;
9 (i) Chapter 19.31 RCW, employment agencies;
10 (j) Chapter 19.105 RCW, camping resorts;
11 (k) Chapter 19.138 RCW, sellers of travel;
12 (l) Chapter 42.45 RCW, notaries public;
13 (m) Chapter 64.36 RCW, timeshares;
14 (n) Chapter 67.08 RCW, boxing, martial arts, and wrestling;
15 (o) Chapter 18.300 RCW, body art, body piercing, and tattooing;
16 (p) Chapter 79A.60 RCW, whitewater river outfitters;
17 (q) Chapter 19.158 RCW, commercial telephone solicitation;
18 ((and))
19 (r) Chapter 19.290 RCW, scrap metal businesses; and
20 (s) Chapter 19.345 RCW, ticket sales.

21 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
22 Expenditures from the account may be used only for expenses incurred
23 in carrying out these business and professions licensing activities
24 of the department. Any residue in the account must be accumulated and
25 may not revert to the general fund at the end of the biennium.
26 However, during the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium the legislature may
27 transfer to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess
28 fund balance in the account.

29 (2) The director must biennially prepare a budget request based
30 on the anticipated costs of administering the business and
31 professions licensing activities listed in subsection (1) of this
32 section, which must include the estimated income from these business
33 and professions fees.

34 **DIRECTOR DUTIES**

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** In addition to any other duties imposed by
36 law, the director has the following powers and duties:

37 (1) To set license and renewal fees in accordance with RCW
38 43.24.086;

1 (2) To adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter;

2 (3) To prepare and administer or approve the preparation and
3 administration of licensing under this chapter;

4 (4) To maintain the official department record of applicants and
5 licensees;

6 (5) To set license expiration dates and renewal periods for all
7 licenses consistent with this chapter;

8 (6) To ensure that all informational notices produced by the
9 department regarding statutory and regulatory changes affecting
10 licensees are provided to each licensee in good standing; and

11 (7) To make information available to the department of revenue to
12 assist in collecting taxes from persons and businesses required to be
13 licensed under this chapter.

14 **PRICE DISCLOSURES**

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Ticket sellers, ticket resellers, and
16 ticket resale marketplaces may not sell, offer for sale, resell, or
17 offer for resale an admission ticket, including by means of an
18 internet website, application, phone system, or other technology used
19 to sell tickets, without disclosing to a consumer the total amount
20 that the consumer will be charged before the consumer purchases the
21 admission ticket, including any fees which represent a portion of the
22 total amount to be charged.

23 (2)(a) The following disclosures must be made by ticket sellers,
24 ticket resellers, and ticket resale marketplaces to a user prior to
25 the user selecting a ticket:

26 (i) The base price of the admission ticket; and

27 (ii) The all-in price.

28 (b) Disclosures of subtotals, fees, and any other component of an
29 admission ticket purchase price must not be false or misleading, must
30 not be presented more prominently or in the same or larger size as
31 the all-in price, and must be fully disclosed before a user is
32 required to enter login credentials if the user is using a platform
33 or exchange that requires login credentials to complete a purchase.

34 (c) The price of an admission ticket may not increase between
35 selection and purchase, excluding reasonable fees for the delivery of
36 nonelectronic tickets based on the delivery method selected by the
37 purchaser, which must be disclosed prior to acceptance of payment.

1 **CONSUMER DISCLOSURES**

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) Prior to a user's completion of a
3 purchase of an admission ticket, including by means of an internet
4 website, application, phone system, or other technology used to sell
5 tickets, the following must be disclosed to a user by a ticket
6 seller, ticket reseller, and ticket resale marketplace:

7 (a) The terms of a purchaser's right to cancel the purchase of an
8 admission ticket from the ticket seller, ticket reseller, or ticket
9 resale marketplace;

10 (b) The refund policy of the ticket seller, ticket reseller, or
11 ticket resale marketplace should an event be canceled;

12 (c) Whether the ticket seller, ticket reseller, or ticket resale
13 marketplace is owned by, owns, or shares common ownership with
14 another ticket seller or ticket reseller;

15 (d) Whether an admission ticket is transferable, as provided for
16 in section 10 of this act;

17 (e) A hyperlink to a copy of the license held by the ticket
18 seller, ticket reseller, or ticket resale marketplace;

19 (f) Contact information to submit a consumer complaint including,
20 but not limited to, information for the Washington state consumer
21 protection division complaint website; and

22 (g) A statement that Washington state has consumer protections
23 for consumers of admission tickets for events, and where those laws
24 may be found.

25 (2) If a ticket reseller is owned by, owns, or shares common
26 ownership with a ticket seller, prior to a user's completion of a
27 purchase of an admission ticket the ticket reseller must disclose the
28 following:

29 (a) Whether admission tickets for an event are still available
30 for purchase from the ticket seller with whom the ticket reseller
31 shares common ownership, owns, or is owned by; and

32 (b) The base price of the admission ticket available for purchase
33 from that ticket seller.

34 **TICKET TRANSFERABILITY**

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) A ticket seller may employ a
36 nontransferable admission ticketing system only if the consumer is
37 offered an option at the time of initial sale or presale to purchase

1 the same admission ticket in a transferable form that allows
2 admission tickets to be given away or resold independent of and
3 without requiring the consumer to access or log into the ticket
4 seller's website or platform, without penalty or discrimination.

5 (2) A person may not be penalized, discriminated against, or
6 denied access to an event solely on the grounds that the admission
7 ticket was resold or that the admission ticket was resold on a ticket
8 resale marketplace or other admission ticket platform not affiliated
9 with the ticket seller.

10 (3) Nothing in this section prohibits a ticket seller from
11 maintaining and enforcing policies with respect to conduct, behavior,
12 or age at an entertainment venue, or establish limits on the quantity
13 of admission tickets that may be purchased for an event.

14 **DECEPTIVE URLS**

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) The website of a ticket seller,
16 ticket reseller, or ticket resale marketplace selling admission
17 tickets to an event scheduled at a place of entertainment in this
18 state shall not use an internet domain name or subdomain thereof in
19 the website's uniform resource locator that contains any of the
20 following:

21 (a) The name of a place of entertainment;

22 (b) The name of an event, including the name of a person or
23 entity scheduled to perform or appear at the event; or

24 (c) A name substantially similar to those described in (a) and
25 (b) of this subsection.

26 (2) The restriction in subsection (1) of this section does not
27 apply if the ticket seller, ticket reseller, or ticket resale
28 marketplace selling admission tickets to an event scheduled in this
29 state is acting on behalf of the place of entertainment, event,
30 person, or entity scheduled to perform or appear at the event.

31 **SPECULATIVE TICKETS**

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) In addition to any other restrictions
33 imposed by the rights holder of an admission ticket, a ticket
34 reseller or any affiliate of a ticket reseller may not resell an
35 admission ticket or advertise an admission ticket for resale unless:

1 (a)(i) The admission ticket is in the possession or constructive
2 possession of the ticket reseller; or

3 (ii) The ticket reseller has a written contract with the rights
4 holder of the admission ticket to obtain the admission ticket; and

5 (b) The ticket reseller discloses to an admission ticket
6 purchaser at the outset of the transaction the information required
7 under subsection (2) of this section, as applicable.

8 (2) The disclosure under subsection (1) of this section must
9 include an approximate delivery date and the number of admission
10 tickets that are guaranteed to be grouped together, including any
11 designation by the venue of an assigned seating zone, section number,
12 or seat number. If the ticket reseller cannot guarantee specific
13 seats, then the ticket reseller must also disclose this fact to an
14 admission ticket purchaser at the outset of the transaction.

15 (3) If a ticket reseller is unsuccessful in securing the
16 tentative tickets contemplated in this section, then the ticket
17 reseller must refund any deposit made by the purchaser of those
18 admission tickets no later than 10 days after the date of the
19 ticketed event.

20 **UNIFORM REGULATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS ACT**

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The uniform regulation of business and
22 professions act, chapter 18.235 RCW, governs unlicensed practice, the
23 issuance and denial of licenses, and the discipline of licensees
24 under this chapter.

25 **Sec. 14.** RCW 18.235.020 and 2024 c 50 s 2 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) This chapter applies only to the director and the boards and
28 commissions having jurisdiction in relation to the businesses and
29 professions licensed under the chapters specified in this section.
30 This chapter does not apply to any business or profession not
31 licensed under the chapters specified in this section.

32 (2)(a) The director has authority under this chapter in relation
33 to the following businesses and professions:

34 (i) Auctioneers under chapter 18.11 RCW;

35 (ii) Bail bond agents and bail bond recovery agents under chapter
36 18.185 RCW;

1 (iii) Camping resorts' operators and salespersons under chapter
2 19.105 RCW;

3 (iv) Commercial telephone solicitors under chapter 19.158 RCW;

4 (v) Cosmetologists, barbers, manicurists, and estheticians under
5 chapter 18.16 RCW;

6 (vi) Court reporters under chapter 18.145 RCW;

7 (vii) Driver training schools and instructors under chapter 46.82
8 RCW;

9 (viii) Employment agencies under chapter 19.31 RCW;

10 (ix) For hire vehicle operators under chapter 46.72 RCW;

11 (x) Limousines under chapter 46.72A RCW;

12 (xi) Notaries public under chapter 42.45 RCW;

13 (xii) Private investigators under chapter 18.165 RCW;

14 (xiii) Professional boxing, martial arts, and wrestling under
15 chapter 67.08 RCW;

16 (xiv) Real estate appraisers under chapter 18.140 RCW;

17 (xv) Real estate brokers and salespersons under chapters 18.85
18 and 18.86 RCW;

19 (xvi) Scrap metal processors, scrap metal recyclers, and scrap
20 metal suppliers under chapter 19.290 RCW;

21 (xvii) Security guards under chapter 18.170 RCW;

22 (xviii) Sellers of travel under chapter 19.138 RCW;

23 (xix) Timeshares and timeshare salespersons under chapter 64.36
24 RCW;

25 (xx) Whitewater river outfitters under chapter 79A.60 RCW;

26 (xxi) Home inspectors under chapter 18.280 RCW;

27 (xxii) Body artists, body piercers, and tattoo artists, and body
28 art, body piercing, and tattooing shops and businesses, under chapter
29 18.300 RCW; (~~and~~)

30 (xxiii) Appraisal management companies under chapter 18.310 RCW;
31 and

32 (xxiv) Ticket sales under chapter 19.345 RCW.

33 (b) The boards and commissions having authority under this
34 chapter are as follows:

35 (i) The state board for architects established in chapter 18.08
36 RCW;

37 (ii) The Washington state collection agency board established in
38 chapter 19.16 RCW;

1 (iii) The state board of registration for professional engineers
2 and land surveyors established in chapter 18.43 RCW governing
3 licenses issued under chapters 18.43 and 18.210 RCW;

4 (iv) The funeral and cemetery board established in chapter 18.39
5 RCW governing licenses issued under chapters 18.39 and 68.05 RCW;

6 (v) The state board of licensure for landscape architects
7 established in chapter 18.96 RCW; and

8 (vi) The state geologist licensing board established in chapter
9 18.220 RCW.

10 (3) In addition to the authority to discipline license holders,
11 the disciplinary authority may grant or deny licenses based on the
12 conditions and criteria established in this chapter, chapter 18.415
13 RCW, and the chapters specified in subsection (2) of this section.
14 This chapter also governs any investigation, hearing, or proceeding
15 relating to denial of licensure or issuance of a license conditioned
16 on the applicant's compliance with an order entered under RCW
17 18.235.110 by the disciplinary authority.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** If any provision of this act or its
19 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
20 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
21 persons or circumstances is not affected.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Sections 2, 4, 5, and 7 through 13 of
23 this act are each added to chapter 19.345 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** This act takes effect January 1, 2027.

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