

Hello Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development,

Thank you for all of your support moving H.512, the ticket resale bill, forward. This bill will make a tremendous positive impact on our cultural and event venues, and for Vermont consumers.

I'm writing this morning on behalf of the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Creative Network (including our coalition of live event venues that has been working to advance this bill) to share our support for the Senate version of H.512, which passed the Senate earlier this week. Overall, this is a strong bill that will protect Vermont venues and consumers.

Here are the major changes with the Senate version. From our perspective, while many of these were unnecessary, none of them are harmful:

- Added in a definition of an "independent venue"
 - o The new definition covers all of the venues currently operating in Vermont, including nonprofits.
- Updated the definition of a reseller to NOT include individuals.
 - o While we are not in favor of this, it was an important compromise that was needed to get the Senate to support the bill. And there are other provisions in the bill that protect Vermont venues.
- Added a requirement that primary ticket sellers (venues) include the total price of the original ticket on the ticket.
 - o While some venues are concerned this might require additional work or cost, they were supportive of it because they are committed to fixing this problem.
- Added a subsection that specifies the size and type of venue that is subject to the price cap.
 - o We worked with the committee to ensure that all existing VT venues are included in this language
 - o While this feels unnecessary, it does not harm any VT venues and ensures that they are all included in the price cap.
- Added in a 2-year sunset to the whole thing.
 - o While we would have preferred a longer runway, we are confident that we will see significant improvements even in 2 years

All of the other provisions of the bill are strong. Importantly, the bill still:

- Bans speculative ticket sales for all ticket exchanges, resale businesses, and individuals
- Institutes a 110% price cap on resale businesses and secondary ticket exchanges (unless a venue has a written contract for resale services)
- Requires clear and transparent disclosure requirements for secondary ticket exchanges
- Bans deceptive URLs and improper use of intellectual property
- Moves violates under existing consumer protection acts

All of these provisions will make a huge difference to Vermont's creative sector, and for that reason we are in full support.

Thank you for all of your support through this process. This is going to be a significant step forward for Vermont's economy and communities!

Susan