Legislative Analysis

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EVENT ONLINE TICKET SALES ACT

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Senate Bill 158 (S-1) as reported from House committee
Sponsor: Sen. Mary Cavanagh
House Committee: Judiciary
Senate Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection
Complete to 12-15-25

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 158 would create a new act, the Event Online Ticket Sales Act, to regulate the online sale of ***tickets*** for ***entertainment events*** and to prohibit the use of ***bots*** to make certain online ticket purchases.

Bot would mean an automated software application programmed to perform automatic and repetitive tasks and that is designed to impersonate or replicate human activity online.

Ticket would mean a physical, electronic, or other form of a certificate, voucher, document, token, or other evidence indicating that the person entitled to possession through purchase or otherwise has a right to enter a venue for an entertainment event at the date and time specified on the ticket.

Entertainment event would mean a concert, theatrical performance, sporting event, exhibition, show, or similar scheduled activity held in this state that is open to the public, is held in a public or private venue, and charges an admission fee to attend.

The bill would prohibit a ***person*** from using or creating a bot to do any of the following:

- Purchase an amount of tickets for an entertainment event in excess of the ***ticket purchasing limit***.
- Use multiple internet protocol (IP) addresses, purchaser accounts, or email addresses to purchase an amount of tickets for an entertainment event in excess of the ticket purchasing limit.
- Circumvent or disable an electronic queue, waiting period, presale code, or other sales volume limitation system associated with an online ticket sale.
- Circumvent or disable a security measure, access control system, or other control or measure that is used to validate that a ticket is not fraudulent.

Person would mean any of the following:

- An individual.
- A sole proprietorship, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity.
- A combination of any of the persons listed above.

Ticket purchasing limit would mean the posted limit stating the number of tickets a person may purchase for a specific entertainment event during an online ticket sale.

The bill cannot take effect unless Senate Bill 159 is also enacted.[1]

BACKGROUND:

The language of Senate Bill 158 closely mirrors provisions of the federal Better Online Tickets Sales (BOTS) Act,[2] which prohibits the use of automated bots to circumvent ticket purchase limits at the federal level. The BOTS Act authorizes the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, state attorneys general, and other state consumer protection officers to investigate violations and initiate civil action in federal court against entities that violate the act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

[1] Senate Bill 159 would create a new act that would prescribe sanctions for violations of the Event Online Ticket Sales Act proposed by Senate Bill 158. House Bills 4262 and 4263 (summarized here) are similar, but not identical, to Senate Bills 158 and 159, and are currently in the Senate Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection committee.
[2] https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/45c