Legislative Analysis

Phone: (517) 373-8080
http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa

EVENT ONLINE TICKET SALES ACT

Analysis available at
http://www.legislature.mi.gov

House Bill 4262 as enacted
Public Act 49 of 2026
Sponsor: Rep. Mike Harris

Senate Bill 158 as enacted
Public Act 50 of 2026
Sponsor: Sen. Mary Cavanagh

House Committee: Judiciary
Senate Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection [HB 4262 discharged]
Complete to 1-16-26

SUMMARY:

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

> ***Bot*** means an automated software application programmed to perform automatic and repetitive tasks and that is designed to impersonate or replicate human activity online.
>
> ***Ticket*** means 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*** means 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.

Specifically, the bill prohibits 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 means 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 means the posted limit stating the number of tickets a person may purchase for a specific entertainment event during an online ticket sale.

House Bill 4262 creates a new act to prescribe sanctions for violating EOTSA and authorizes the Department of Attorney General (AG) to investigate claims of violations. Under the bill, a person that violates EOTSA is subject to a civil fine of up to $5,000 for each ticket acquired in violation of the act, collections on which are deposited into the general fund.

The AG also may bring a civil action against a person who violates EOTSA for appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, or to collect the civil fine described above and recover restitution. The bill subjects a person that violates a court order or injunction issued under this provision to a civil fine of up to $5,000.

The bills take effect March 24, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

Taken together, the language of the bills closely mirrors provisions of the federal Better Online Tickets Sales (BOTS) Act,[1] 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. Senate Bill 158 and House Bill 4262 essentially create an analogous cause of action that allows the attorney general to pursue similar relief in state courts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4262 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. Under the bill, a person that violates provisions of the Event Online Ticket Sales Act (SB 158) would be subject to a civil fine of up to $5,000. Civil fine revenue collected would be deposited into the state general fund under the bill. Also, under section 8827(4) of the Revised Judicature Act, $10 of the civil fine would be required to be deposited into the state's Justice System Fund, which supports various justice-related endeavors in the judicial branch and legislative branches of government and the Departments of State Police, Corrections, Health and Human Services, and Treasury. The fiscal impact on local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affected court caseloads and related administrative costs. Because there is no practical way to

[1] https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/45c

determine the number of violations that will occur, an estimate of the amount of fine revenue collected or costs to local courts cannot be made.

The bills would not have a significant fiscal impact on the Department of Attorney General, which would be able to investigate and prosecute violators of SB 158 with existing financial and personnel resources.

Legislative Analyst: Aaron A. Meek
Fiscal Analysts: Robin Risko
Michael Cnossen

■ 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.