



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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## BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
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Senate Bill 158 (Substitute S-1)  
Senate Bill 159 (Substitute S-1)  
Sponsor: Senator Mary Cavanagh (S.B. 158)  
Senator John N. Damoose (S.B. 159)  
Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection

Date Completed: 6-11-25

**CONTENT**

**Senate Bill 158 (S-1) would enact the "Event Online Ticket Sales Act" to prohibit a person from using or creating a bot to circumvent or disable a measure used to enforce ticket purchase limits, enforce order within ticket sales, or validate authentic event tickets.**

**Senate Bill 159 (S-1) would enact a new law to prescribe a civil fine of up to \$5,000 for each violation of the proposed "Event Online Ticket Sales Act" and allow the Attorney General (AG) to bring a civil action against violations of the Act.**

The bills are tie-barred.

**Senate Bill 158 (S-1)****Definitions**

Under the "Event Online Ticket Sales Act", "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.

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

"Person" would mean an individual, a sole proprietorship, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity, or a combination of persons described above.

"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.

"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.

**Prohibition of Interfering with Security Measure**

The Act 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 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 was not fraudulent.

### **Senate Bill 159 (S-1)**

#### **Investigations and Fines for Interfering with Security Measures**

The bill would require the AG to investigate a claim that a person had violated the "Event Online Ticket Sales Act". If the AG determined that a violation was imminent or a person was in the process of violating the Act, the AG could bring a civil action to restrain or enjoin the person from violating or continuing to violate the Act. If the AG determined that a person had violated the Act, the AG could bring a civil action against the person to collect the civil fine prescribed below for the violation of the Act. The AG also could recover restitution. The court could allow the AG to recover reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred in an action resulting in the imposition of a civil fine under the Act.

A person that violated the Act would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000, which would have to be deposited into the General Fund. Each ticket transaction in which a ticket was acquired in violation of the Act would constitute a separate violation for the purpose of assessing a civil fine. Additionally, a person that violated a court order or injunction issued to enforce the Act would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000.

#### **PREVIOUS LEGISLATION**

*(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)*

Senate Bills 158 and 159 are respectively reintroductions of House Bills 5661 and 5662 from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. House Bills 5661 and 5662 passed the House and were referred to the Senate Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bills would not have a fiscal impact on the AG, and no fiscal impact is anticipated for local units of government. The bills would empower the AG to enforce the "Event Online Ticket Sales Act", which could create expenses for the AG; however, the bills also would allow the AG to recover costs for these litigious expenses. The bills also could generate revenue for the State's General Fund in the form of civil fines at a rate of \$5,000 per violation. It is unknown how much revenue this would generate for the State.

Fiscal Analyst: Michael Siracuse

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.