



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
LD 992, “An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
March 27, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, I am Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am pleased to present LD 992, “An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging.”

LD 992 is a straightforward bill rooted in fairness and common sense. At its core, it’s about giving Maine people the information they deserve to make informed choices — whether they’re booking a weekend getaway or buying tickets to a concert. Too often, what appears to be a reasonable price at first glance turns out to be something quite different by the time you reach the checkout screen. Fees get tacked on — sometimes late in the process, sometimes with vague descriptions, and sometimes in ways that feel intentionally misleading.

We’ve all seen it: a short-term rental listed for \$120 a night ends up costing \$200 after cleaning fees, service fees, and processing fees are revealed at the last minute. Or a \$50 concert ticket becomes \$75 with a vague “convenience fee” that no one can explain. These practices don’t just frustrate consumers — they erode trust in our marketplaces.

This bill doesn’t ban fees. It doesn’t tell businesses what they can or can’t charge. It simply requires that when a price is advertised — online, in print, or in-person — it reflects the full cost that a consumer will be expected to pay. It says: be honest, be upfront, and let consumers compare apples to apples.

The bill applies to two rapidly growing sectors where this issue is especially pronounced: short-term lodging and live event ticketing. It establishes clear guidelines for how total prices and mandatory fees must be displayed and disclosed. It gives the Attorney General enforcement authority and provides a path for consumers to seek remedies in civil court if they are harmed.

Importantly, this bill is crafted to be balanced. It does not impose unnecessary burdens on small businesses. In fact, many Maine-based hosts and venues already practice this kind of transparency because it builds goodwill and trust with their customers. This bill ensures that bad actors — often large, out-of-state platforms — don’t gain an unfair advantage over our Maine-based businesses by obscuring costs.



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Maine is not alone in recognizing the need for price transparency. California recently enacted a similar law that went into effect in 2024. On the federal level, the Federal Trade Commission has finalized a rule requiring that all mandatory fees be included in the upfront advertised price for both short-term rentals and live event tickets. That rule is set to take effect in April 2025.

While it's encouraging to see action at the federal level, I believe it's still important that Maine enshrine these protections in our own laws. Here in Maine, fairness and straight-dealing aren't just talking points — they're core values that we carry into our communities, our businesses, and our government. Passing this bill allows us to project those values clearly and make them permanent.

We also know that federal policies can shift. FTC rules are only as durable as the administration that enforces them. Leadership changes in Washington can lead to different priorities, and regulations can be weakened, rolled back, or delayed. By putting these protections in Maine statute, we give our residents lasting certainty — regardless of who is in the White House or running a federal agency. This bill ensures Mainers have a consistent and dependable standard of fairness they can count on.

LD 992 aligns with this national movement toward clearer, fairer pricing. But it also sends a message: Maine is willing to lead on consumer protection rather than wait for federal enforcement. This gives our state the flexibility to craft policy that reflects the needs of our residents and local businesses.

In bringing this bill forward, my aim is not to vilify businesses. I believe most businesses want to treat their customers fairly. But when pricing structures become confusing or deceptive, it's appropriate for the Legislature to step in and set a baseline of transparency.

This issue isn't partisan. It's not ideological. It's about protecting the interests of everyday Mainers — working families, students, retirees — who deserve clear, honest pricing when they spend their hard-earned money.

I welcome the committee's questions and discussion, and I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that this legislation achieves its purpose in a way that's fair, effective, and responsive to stakeholder feedback.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim'.

Tim Nangle
State Senator, Senate District 26
Representing Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook