



March 12, 2025

Re LD913: An Act to Prohibit Ticket Sellers from Prohibiting the Transfer of Tickets to Third Parties

Dear Maine Legislature,

I am writing with great concern for the proposed LD913: An Act to Prohibit Ticket Sellers from Prohibiting the Transfer of Tickets to Third Parties. What appears at first glance as a safeguard to ticket-buyers is actually harmful to audiences of live entertainment.

Imagine your Mother, favorite Aunt or Uncle or partner has just bought tickets online to hear their favorite band perform. They've paid what appears to be an exorbitant amount – perhaps twice or three times what you typically pay for concert tickets. But you don't say anything because they are so excited. They then lose their tickets. (It happens!) When they go to the website to have it re-issued, there is no recourse. When they call the venue, there is no record of the sale. Your loved one is now out significant funds and they do not get the experience of live performance. That is what the proposed legislation makes possible.

As written, this legislation:

- Drives up ticket prices and fees for audiences, well beyond face value, especially as this legislation allows a ticket to be sold multiple times.
- Fails to ban speculative ticket sales, deceptive websites, hidden fees, or price gouging.
- Does not hold professional resellers accountable or guarantee refunds for invalid tickets.
- Leaves venues, promoters, presenters, producers "holding the bag."

By extension this proposed legislation harms the venues and organizations that produce, present and promote live entertainment as it reduces revenue, control and increases patron-service issues. By mandating ticket transferability, producers are denied the ability to ensure that tickets go to real people and not the resale sites. Patrons who legitimately need to resell tickets can use venue-run exchanges that prevent price gouging while maintaining fair access. In terms of patron-service issues, this legislation increases the possibility of misplaced tickets being irrevocably lost and seats being sold multiple times – both major customer service issues for any venue. When this happens, the bad feelings will sit with the venue or the producer/promoter/presenter.

In the end, as proposed, secondary market sellers (ie scalpers) such as StubHub and Vivid Seats are the ones who will benefit most from this legislature and the inflated ticket prices and fees they collect.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aimée M. Petrin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aimée M. Petrin
Executive & Artistic Director