

Ticket Scalping Bill 2021

Contents

Part 1 — Preliminary		
1.	Short title	2
2.	Commencement	2
3.	Terms used	2
4.	Act binds Crown	4
5.	Resale restrictions	4
6.	Application of Act	4
Part 2 — Resale, supply or advertising of tickets		
7.	Ticket scalping	5
8.	Invalid resale restrictions	5
9.	Supply of tickets not to be made contingent on other purchases	5
10.	Prohibited advertisements	5
11.	Ticket resale advertising	6
Part 3 — Online purchase of tickets		
12.	Prohibited conduct in relation to use of ticketing websites	7
Part 4 — Miscellaneous		
13.	Functions of Commissioner	8
14.	Application of <i>Fair Trading Act 2010</i>	8
15.	Infringement notices and <i>Criminal Procedure Act 2004</i>	10
16.	Regulations	10
17.	Review of Act	11

	Part 5 — Transitional provision	
18.	Transitional provision	12
	Defined terms	

Western Australia

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Ticket Scalping Bill 2021

A Bill for

An Act to restrict the resale of event tickets and to prohibit the use of software designed to circumvent security measures on ticket selling websites, and for related purposes.

The Parliament of Western Australia enacts as follows:

1 **Part 1 — Preliminary**

2 **1. Short title**

3 This is the *Ticket Scalping Act 2021*.

4 **2. Commencement**

5 This Act comes into operation as follows —

- 6 (a) Part 1 — on the day on which this Act receives the
7 Royal Assent;
8 (b) the rest of the Act — on a day fixed by proclamation.

9 **3. Terms used**

10 In this Act —

11 ***advertisement*** means any advertisement, whether paid or not;

12 ***advertising publication*** means any website, online facility,
13 newspaper, magazine or other publication or service containing
14 advertisements to which members of the public have access
15 (whether or not a member of the public is first required to pay a
16 fee or subscription, register or become a member);

17 ***authorised ticket seller***, in relation to an event, means —

- 18 (a) if the event organiser has authorised a person to supply
19 tickets for admission to the event on behalf of the event
20 organiser, or to resupply tickets for admission to the
21 event after acquiring them from the event organiser —
22 that person; or
23 (b) in any other case — any event organiser for the event;

24 ***Commissioner*** has the meaning given in the *Fair Trading*
25 *Act 2010* section 6;

26 ***event*** includes the following —

- 27 (a) a sporting event;
28 (b) an entertainment event, including a concert, a
29 performance at a theatre or the opera, and a dance event;

- 1 (c) a festival;
- 2 (d) a cultural event or display;
- 3 (e) an arena event;
- 4 (f) any other form of public performance, exhibition,
- 5 display or public gathering;
- 6 **event organiser**, in relation to an event, means —
- 7 (a) the person who authorises the first supply of tickets for
- 8 admission to the event, whether or not that person is also
- 9 a performer, the promoter of the event or the operator of
- 10 the event venue; or
- 11 (b) a person within a class of persons prescribed by the
- 12 regulations to be the event organiser in relation to a class
- 13 of events to which the event belongs;
- 14 **original ticket price**, in relation to a ticket for admission to an
- 15 event —
- 16 (a) means the amount for which the ticket was purchased
- 17 when first offered for retail sale by the event organiser
- 18 or an authorised ticket seller; and
- 19 (b) includes, if a booking fee or other commission was
- 20 payable to an authorised ticket seller in relation to that
- 21 sale, the amount of that fee or commission;
- 22 **owner**, of an advertising publication, includes any person who
- 23 carries on the business or undertaking of the advertising
- 24 publication;
- 25 **prohibited advertisement** means a ticket resale advertisement
- 26 that does not comply with section 10;
- 27 **resale restriction** has the meaning given in section 5;
- 28 **sell** includes to offer or advertise for sale;
- 29 **supply** includes to offer to supply and to advertise for supply;
- 30 **ticket resale advertisement** means an advertisement for the sale
- 31 of a ticket for admission to an event by a person other than an
- 32 authorised ticket seller;

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1 ***ticket scalping*** means selling a ticket for admission to an event
2 for an amount which exceeds the original ticket price by more
3 than 10%.

4 **4. Act binds Crown**

5 This Act binds the Crown in right of Western Australia and, so
6 far as the legislative power of the Parliament permits, the Crown
7 in all its other capacities.

8 **5. Resale restrictions**

9 (1) For the purposes of this Act, a ***resale restriction*** is a term or
10 condition of a ticket for admission to an event that limits the
11 circumstances in which the ticket may be resold.

12 (2) A term or condition that limits the circumstances in which a
13 ticket may be resold includes a term or condition that provides
14 for the ticket to be cancelled, surrendered or rendered invalid if
15 the ticket is resold or if the ticket is resold in certain
16 circumstances.

17 **6. Application of Act**

18 (1) This Act applies to tickets for admission to events in Western
19 Australia that are subject to a resale restriction.

20 (2) Subject to subsection (1), this Act extends to conduct, and other
21 acts, matters and things, occurring or existing outside or partly
22 outside Western Australia (whether within or outside Australia).

1 **Part 2 — Resale, supply or advertising of tickets**

2 **7. Ticket scalping**

3 A person must not sell a ticket for admission to an event for an
4 amount which exceeds the original ticket price by more than
5 10%.

6 Penalty: a fine of \$20 000.

7 **8. Invalid resale restrictions**

8 A resale restriction is void to the extent that it provides for the
9 ticket to be cancelled, surrendered or rendered invalid if the
10 ticket is resold for an amount not exceeding 110% of the
11 original ticket price.

12 **9. Supply of tickets not to be made contingent on other**
13 **purchases**

14 (1) A person (the *supplier*) must not supply a ticket for admission
15 to an event to any other person (the *recipient*) under an
16 agreement that makes the liability of the supplier to supply the
17 ticket to the recipient contingent on payment by the recipient to
18 the supplier of an amount in consideration for the provision to
19 the recipient of any other goods or services.

20 Penalty for this subsection: a fine of \$20 000.

21 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the supply of a ticket under —

22 (a) an agreement that has been authorised by the event
23 organiser for the relevant event; or

24 (b) any other agreement of a kind prescribed by the
25 regulations.

26 **10. Prohibited advertisements**

27 (1) A ticket resale advertisement must not specify an amount for the
28 sale of the ticket that is more than 110% of the original ticket
29 price.

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- 1 (2) A ticket resale advertisement must specify —
2 (a) the original ticket price; and
3 (b) details of the location from which the ticket holder is
4 authorised to view the event (including, for example,
5 any bay number, row number and seat number for the
6 ticket).

7 **11. Ticket resale advertising**

- 8 (1) The owner of an advertising publication must ensure that no
9 prohibited advertisement is published in the publication.
10 Penalty for this subsection: a fine of \$20 000.
- 11 (2) It is a defence to a charge of an offence under subsection (1) to
12 prove that —
- 13 (a) the advertisement was received by the person charged,
14 or by a person acting on that person's behalf, in the
15 ordinary course of carrying on the business or
16 undertaking associated with the advertising publication;
17 and
- 18 (b) the agreement relating to the publication of the
19 advertisement between the person charged and the
20 person placing the advertisement was subject to terms or
21 conditions prohibiting the publication of prohibited
22 advertisements; and
- 23 (c) the person charged, or a person responsible for
24 managing the advertising publication on that person's
25 behalf, as soon as practicable after becoming aware that
26 the prohibited advertisement had been published in the
27 publication, took reasonable steps to ensure that the
28 advertisement was removed from the publication; and
- 29 (d) the person charged took such other steps as were
30 reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that no
31 prohibited advertisement was published in the
32 publication.

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Part 3 — Online purchase of tickets

12. Prohibited conduct in relation to use of ticketing websites

- (1) In this section —
security measures, in relation to a website, include any measures of a kind prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

- (2) A person must not use any software to enable or assist the person to circumvent the security measures of a website to purchase tickets in contravention of the published terms of use of the website.
Penalty for this subsection: a fine of \$100 000.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), terms of use of a website are published if they are published on the website.

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Part 4 — Miscellaneous

13. Functions of Commissioner

- (1) The functions of the Commissioner include the following —
- (a) to promote the operation and effect of this Act;
 - (b) to conduct educational activities associated with promoting compliance with this Act;
 - (c) to receive complaints and information concerning potential breaches of this Act and, if the Commissioner considers it warranted, to investigate any matter and to take any action in respect of those complaints or that information considered to be appropriate by the Commissioner;
 - (d) to publish (in any form) statements identifying and giving warnings about conduct or practices that are in breach of this Act, including by identifying persons who engage or are likely to engage in such conduct or practices;
 - (e) to perform other functions associated with the operation or enforcement of this Act, or otherwise conferred on the Commissioner under, or for the purposes of, this Act.
- (2) The Commissioner must not make or issue a statement under subsection (1)(d) that identifies a specific person unless satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.

14. Application of *Fair Trading Act 2010*

- (1) The following provisions of the *Fair Trading Act 2010* apply, with any modifications that are necessary for the purposes of this Act, as if those provisions were a part of this Act —
- (a) sections 60 and 61;
 - (b) Part 6, other than sections 64 and 65 and Division 4A;

- 1 (c) Part 7, other than sections 96, 97, 98, 100 and 108 and
2 Division 4;
- 3 (d) Part 8, other than section 116.
- 4 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the *Fair Trading Act 2010* is
5 to be read as if —
- 6 (a) a reference to “this Act” or “this or any other Act” were
7 a reference to this Act; and
- 8 (b) the words “or another Act”, “or any other Act” (other
9 than in section 60(1)) or “or another Act that confers
10 functions on the Commissioner” were deleted; and
- 11 (c) a reference to “the Department” were a reference to the
12 department of the Public Service principally assisting
13 the Minister in the administration of this Act; and
- 14 (d) the words “or a police officer assisting in an
15 investigation under section 88D” in paragraph (c) of the
16 definition of **authorised person** in section 63 were
17 deleted; and
- 18 (e) the words “the *Fair Trading Act 2010*” were inserted in
19 the definition of **investigator** in section 63 after the
20 words “designated under”; and
- 21 (f) the words “the *Fair Trading Act 2010*” were inserted in
22 section 66 after the words “the document provided
23 under”; and
- 24 (g) sections 77(6), 89(2A) and (5A), 95(5), 106(3)(c) and
25 112(3)(c)(ii), (da) and (f) were deleted; and
- 26 (h) the words “or 4A” in section 88(1) were deleted; and
- 27 (i) the words “or 88E” in section 89(2) were deleted; and
- 28 (j) the words “or 100” in sections 94(1)(a), 105(1) and
29 106(3)(b) were deleted; and
- 30 (k) the definition of **regulated person** in section 112(1)
31 were deleted.

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1 (3) Subject to subsection (2), any definition contained in the *Fair*
2 *Trading Act 2010* of a term used in the provisions applied by
3 subsection (1) also applies for the purposes of those provisions.

4 Notes for this section:

5 1. Subsection (1) incorporates into this Act certain provisions of the *Fair*
6 *Trading Act 2010* that provide for or in relation to the following —

- 7 (a) powers of the Commissioner;
8 (b) investigation and enforcement;
9 (c) criminal and civil proceedings;
10 (d) miscellaneous matters.

11 2. Subsection (2) makes certain modifications to those provisions in their
12 application as part of this Act.

13 **15. Infringement notices and *Criminal Procedure Act 2004***

14 (1) If this Act is a prescribed Act for the purposes of the *Criminal*
15 *Procedure Act 2004* Part 2, this section applies in relation to the
16 service of an infringement notice under that Part by an
17 authorised officer in relation to an alleged offence under this
18 Act.

19 (2) The infringement notice must be served within —

- 20 (a) 21 days after the day on which the authorised officer
21 forms the opinion that there is sufficient evidence to
22 support the allegation of the offence; and
23 (b) 6 months after the day on which the alleged offence is
24 believed to have been committed.

25 (3) The *Criminal Procedure Act 2004* Part 2 is modified to the
26 extent necessary to give effect to this section.

27 **16. Regulations**

28 (1) The Governor may make regulations prescribing matters —

- 29 (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
30 (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving
31 effect to the purposes of this Act.

1 (2) The regulations may provide for offences against the regulations
2 and prescribe penalties for those offences not exceeding a fine
3 of \$5 000.

4 **17. Review of Act**

5 (1) The Minister must review the operation and effectiveness of this
6 Act, and prepare a report based on the review, as soon as
7 practicable after the 5th anniversary of the day on which this
8 section comes into operation.

9 (2) The review must address whether sections 7, 9 and 12 have
10 been effective in reducing the practice of ticket scalping.

11 (3) The Minister must cause the report to be laid before each House
12 of Parliament as soon as practicable after it is prepared, but not
13 later than 12 months after the 5th anniversary.

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Part 5 — Transitional provision

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18. Transitional provision

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This Act does not apply to a ticket purchased from an authorised
4 ticket seller before the day on which Part 2 comes into
5 operation.

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Defined terms

[This is a list of terms defined and the provisions where they are defined.

The list is not part of the law.]

Defined term	Provision(s)
advertisement	3
advertising publication	3
authorised ticket seller	3
Commissioner	3
event	3
event organiser	3
original ticket price	3
owner	3
prohibited advertisement	3
recipient	9(1)
resale restriction	3, 5(1)
security measures	12(1)
sell	3
supplier	9(1)
supply	3
ticket resale advertisement	3
ticket scalping	3