

HB 2715 with HCA 1 -- EVENT TICKETS

SPONSOR: Rowden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill bans the sale of event tickets that have a credit card entry restriction to consumers without a signed acknowledgment by the consumer and the option for consumers to purchase an event ticket that is transferable at any price, at any time, and without additional fees. The acknowledgment must be signed prior to the beginning of any time limitation placed on electronic event ticket purchases, and prior to the purchase of such event ticket for all other purchases. An event ticket vendor must maintain a toll-free telephone number for complaints and inquiries and implement a standard refund policy. Violation of this act shall be considered an unlawful practice.

HCA #1: This amendment removes the portion of the bill that prevents a vendor from selling electronic tickets that are not readily transferable at any price and time, without any additional fees through a vendor of the consumer's choice. The amendment also removes the provision requiring a ticket vendor who sells event tickets that have a credit card entry restriction to also provide consumers with the option of purchasing an even ticket that is transferable at any price and time, without any additional fees, through a vendor of the consumer's choice. This amendment instead requires a ticket vendor to post specific language on the website notifying the consumer that certain restrictions apply.

This bill is the same as SCS SB 751 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill protects consumers from discriminatory practices. This bill ensures that consumers who purchase event tickets can transfer or sell their tickets without burdensome restrictions. This bill also prevents vendors from using bots to manipulate the market and drive up ticket prices.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowden; Consumers Council Of Missouri; Laura Dooley, Ebay/Stubhub; Chris Vanderhoef, Ticketwork; Steve Delbianco, Netchoice; and United For Missouri.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the government should not interfere with private business. Entertainers and sports teams should be allowed to manage how tickets to their events are sold and transferred. In practice, restricted tickets make up a very small percentage of the marketplace. In most cases consumers can choose to purchase paper tickets rather than

restricted tickets should they so desire.

Testifying against the bill were Ticketmaster and the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club.