

Calendar No. 144

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 196

[Report No. 119–57]

To improve online ticket sales and protect consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To improve online ticket sales and protect consumers, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “~~Mitigating Automated~~
5 ~~Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act~~” or the
6 “~~MAIN Event Ticketing Act~~”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING THE BOTS ACT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Better Online
3 Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45c) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
6 or” and inserting a semicolon;

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
8 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following new
10 subparagraph:

11 “(C) to use or cause to be used an applica-
12 tion that performs automated tasks to purchase
13 event tickets from an Internet website or online
14 service in circumvention of posted online ticket
15 purchasing order rules of the Internet website
16 or online service, including a software applica-
17 tion that circumvents an access control system,
18 security measure, or other technological control
19 or measure.”;

20 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
21 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

22 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
23 lowing new subsection:

24 “(b) REQUIRING ONLINE TICKET ISSUERS TO PUT
25 IN PLACE SITE POLICIES AND ESTABLISH SAFEGUARDS
26 TO PROTECT SITE SECURITY.—

1 “(1) REQUIREMENT TO ENFORCE SITE POLI-
2 CIES.—Each ticket issuer that owns or operates an
3 Internet website or online service that facilitates or
4 executes the sale of event tickets shall ensure that
5 such website or service has in place an access control
6 system, security measure, or other technological con-
7 trol or measure to enforce posted event ticket pur-
8 chasing limits.

9 “(2) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH SITE SECU-
10 RITY SAFEGUARDS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each ticket issuer
12 that owns or operates an Internet website or
13 online service that facilitates or executes the
14 sale of event tickets shall establish, implement,
15 and maintain reasonable administrative, tech-
16 nical, and physical safeguards to protect the se-
17 curity, confidentiality, integrity, or availability
18 of the website or service.

19 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
20 the safeguards described in subparagraph (A),
21 each ticket issuer described in such paragraph
22 shall consider—

23 “(i) the administrative, technical, and
24 physical safeguards that are appropriate to
25 the size and complexity of the ticket issuer;

1 “(ii) the nature and scope of the ac-
2 tivities of the ticket issuer;

3 “(iii) the sensitivity of any customer
4 information at issue; and

5 “(iv) the range of security risks and
6 vulnerabilities that are reasonably foresee-
7 able or known to the ticket issuer.

8 “(C) THIRD PARTIES AND SERVICE PRO-
9 VIDERS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Where applicable,
11 a ticket issuer that owns or operates an
12 Internet website or online service that fa-
13 cilitates or executes the sale of event tick-
14 ets shall implement and maintain proce-
15 dures to require that any third party or
16 service provider that performs services with
17 respect to the sale of event tickets or has
18 access to data regarding event ticket pur-
19 chasing on the website or service maintains
20 reasonable administrative, technical, and
21 physical safeguards to protect the security
22 and integrity of the website or service and
23 that data.

24 “(ii) OVERSIGHT PROCEDURE RE-
25 QUIREMENTS.—The procedures imple-

1 mented and maintained by a ticket issuer
2 in accordance with clause (i) shall include
3 the following:

4 “(I) Taking reasonable steps to
5 select and retain service providers
6 that are capable of maintaining ap-
7 propriate safeguards for the customer
8 information at issue.

9 “(II) Requiring service providers
10 by contract to implement and main-
11 tain adequate safeguards.

12 “(III) Periodically assessing serv-
13 ice providers based on the risk they
14 present and the continued adequacy of
15 their safeguards.

16 “(D) UPDATES.—A ticket issuer that owns
17 or operates an Internet website or online service
18 that facilitates or executes the sale of event
19 tickets shall regularly evaluate and make ad-
20 justments to the safeguards described in sub-
21 paragraph (A) in light of any material changes
22 in technology, internal or external threats to
23 system security, confidentiality, integrity, and
24 availability, and the changing business arrange-
25 ments or operations of the ticket issuer.

1 “(3) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF
2 CIRCUMVENTION; CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A ticket issuer that
4 owns or operates an Internet website or online
5 service that facilitates or executes the sale of
6 event tickets shall report to the Commission
7 any incidents of circumvention of which the
8 ticket issuer has actual knowledge.

9 “(B) CONSUMER COMPLAINT WEBSITE.—
10 Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
11 ment of the Mitigating Automated Internet
12 Networks for Event Ticketing Act, the Commis-
13 sion shall create a publicly available website (or
14 modify an existing publicly available website of
15 the Commission) to allow individuals to report
16 violations of this subsection to the Commission.

17 “(C) REPORTING TIMELINE AND PROC-
18 ESS.—

19 “(i) TIMELINE.—A ticket issuer shall
20 report known incidents of circumvention
21 within a reasonable period of time after
22 the incident of circumvention is discovered
23 by the ticket issuer, and in no case later
24 than 30 days after an incident of cir-

1 cumvention is discovered by the ticket
2 issuer.

3 “(ii) ~~AUTOMATED SUBMISSION.~~—The
4 Commission may establish a reporting
5 mechanism to provide for the automatic
6 submission of reports required under this
7 subsection.

8 “(iii) ~~COORDINATION WITH STATE AT-~~
9 ~~TORNEYS GENERAL.~~—The Commission
10 shall—

11 “(I) share reports received from
12 ticket issuers under subparagraph (A)
13 with State attorneys general as appro-
14 priate; and

15 “(II) share consumer complaints
16 submitted through the website estab-
17 lished under subparagraph (B) with
18 State attorneys general as appro-
19 priate.

20 “(4) ~~DUTY TO ADDRESS CAUSES OF CIR-~~
21 ~~CUMVENTION.~~—A ticket issuer that owns or operates
22 an Internet website or online service that facilitates
23 or executes the sale of event tickets must take rea-
24 sonable steps to improve its access control systems,
25 security measures, and other technological controls

1 or measures to address any incidents of circumven-
 2 tion of which the ticket issuer has actual knowledge.

3 “(5) FTC GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year
 4 after the date of enactment of the Mitigating Auto-
 5 mated Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act,
 6 the Commission shall publish guidance for ticket
 7 issuers on compliance with the requirements of this
 8 subsection.”;

9 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
 10 graph (1) of this subsection—

11 (A) by striking “subsection (a)” each place
 12 it appears and inserting “subsection (a) or (b)”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 15 “The Commission” and inserting “Except
 16 as provided in paragraph (3), the Commis-
 17 sion”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 19 “Any person” and inserting “Subject to
 20 paragraph (3), any person”;

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 22 paragraphs:

23 “(3) CIVIL ACTION.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commission has
 25 reason to believe that any person has committed

1 a violation of subsection (a) or (b), the Commis-
2 sion may bring a civil action in an appropriate
3 district court of the United States to—

4 “(i) recover a civil penalty under
5 paragraph (4); and

6 “(ii) seek other appropriate relief, in-
7 cluding injunctive relief and other equi-
8 table relief.

9 “(B) LITIGATION AUTHORITY.—Except as
10 otherwise provided in section 16(a)(3) of the
11 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C.
12 56(a)(3)), the Commission shall have exclusive
13 authority to commence or defend, and supervise
14 the litigation of, any civil action authorized
15 under this paragraph and any appeal of such
16 action in its own name by any of its attorneys
17 designated by it for such purpose, unless the
18 Commission authorizes the Attorney General to
19 do so. The Commission shall inform the Attor-
20 ney General of the exercise of such authority
21 and such exercise shall not preclude the Attor-
22 ney General from intervening on behalf of the
23 United States in such action and any appeal of
24 such action as may be otherwise provided by
25 law.

1 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any civil
2 penalty or relief sought through a civil action
3 under this paragraph shall be in addition to
4 other penalties and relief as may be prescribed
5 by law.

6 “(4) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who vio-
8 lates subsection (a) or (b) shall be liable for—

9 “(i) a civil penalty of not less than
10 \$10,000 for each day during which the vio-
11 lation occurs or continues to occur; and

12 “(ii) an additional civil penalty of not
13 less than \$1,000 per violation.

14 “(B) ENHANCED CIVIL PENALTY FOR IN-
15 TENTIONAL VIOLATIONS.—In addition to the
16 civil penalties under subparagraph (A), a per-
17 son that intentionally violates subsection (a) or
18 (b) shall be liable for a civil penalty of not less
19 than \$10,000 per violation.”;

20 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
21 graph (1) of this subsection, by striking “subsection
22 (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection
23 (a) or (b)”;

24 (6) by adding at the end the following new sub-
25 sections:

1 “(e) LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau of In-
3 vestigation, the Department of Justice, and other
4 relevant State or local law enforcement officials shall
5 coordinate as appropriate with the Commission to
6 share information about known instances of
7 cyberattacks on security measures, access control
8 systems, or other technological controls or measures
9 on an Internet website or online service that are
10 used by ticket issuers to enforce posted event ticket
11 purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of
12 posted online ticket purchasing order rules. Such co-
13 ordination may include providing information about
14 ongoing investigations but may exclude classified in-
15 formation or information that could compromise a
16 law enforcement or national security effort, as ap-
17 propriate.

18 “(2) CYBERATTACK DEFINED.—In this para-
19 graph, the term ‘cyberattack’ means an attack, via
20 cyberspace, targeting an enterprise’s use of cyber-
21 space for the purpose of—

22 “(A) disrupting, disabling, destroying, or
23 maliciously controlling a computing environ-
24 ment or computing infrastructure; or

1 “(B) destroying the integrity of data or
2 stealing controlled information.”

3 “(f) CONGRESSIONAL REPORT.—Not later than 1
4 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the
5 Commission shall report to Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
7 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives on the status of enforcement actions taken
9 pursuant to this Act, as well as any identified limitations
10 to the Commission’s ability to pursue incidents of cir-
11 cumvention described in subsection (a)(1)(A).”.

12 (b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITION.—Section 3 of the Bet-
13 ter Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45e note)
14 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
15 graph:

16 “(4) CIRCUMVENTION.—The term ‘circumven-
17 tion’ means the act of avoiding, bypassing, removing,
18 deactivating, or otherwise impairing an access con-
19 trol system, security measure, safeguard, or other
20 technological control or measure described in section
21 2(b)(1).”.

22 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

23 *This Act may be cited as the “Mitigating Automated*
24 *Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act” or the “MAIN*
25 *Event Ticketing Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING THE BOTS ACT.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2 of the Better Online Tick-
3 et Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45c) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) by inserting “online” before “ticket
7 issuer”; and

8 (ii) by striking “; or” and inserting a
9 semicolon;

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
11 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following new
13 subparagraph:

14 “(C) to use or cause to be used an applica-
15 tion, including a software application, that per-
16 forms automated tasks to purchase event tickets
17 from an Internet website or online service used
18 by an online ticket issuer through the circumven-
19 tion of an access control system, security meas-
20 ure, or other technological control or measure
21 used by such Internet website or online service to
22 enforce posted online ticket purchasing order
23 rules of the Internet website or online service.”;

24 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
25 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

1 (3) *by inserting after subsection (a) the following*
2 *new subsection:*

3 “(b) *REQUIRING ONLINE TICKET ISSUERS TO EN-*
4 *FORCE SITE POLICIES.—*

5 “(1) *REQUIREMENT TO ENFORCE AND UPDATE*
6 *SITE POLICIES.—Each online ticket issuer shall—*

7 “(A) *establish, implement, and maintain an*
8 *access control system, security measure, or other*
9 *technological control or measure to enforce posted*
10 *event ticket purchasing limits and to maintain*
11 *the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing*
12 *order rules; and*

13 “(B) *regularly evaluate and make adjust-*
14 *ments, as necessary, to such an access control*
15 *system, security measure, or other technological*
16 *control or measure in light of any material*
17 *changes in technology, internal or external*
18 *threats to system security, and the changing*
19 *business arrangements or operations of the ticket*
20 *issuer.*

21 “(2) *REQUIREMENT TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF*
22 *CIRCUMVENTION; CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—*

23 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Each online ticket*
24 *issuer shall report to the Commission any inci-*
25 *idents of circumvention of which the ticket issuer*

1 *has actual knowledge not later than 30 days*
2 *after the incident of circumvention is discovered*
3 *by the online ticket issuer.*

4 “(B) *ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.*—*The Com-*
5 *mission may establish a reporting mechanism to*
6 *provide for the electronic submission of reports*
7 *required by subparagraph (A).*

8 “(C) *COORDINATION WITH STATE ATTOR-*
9 *NEYS GENERAL.*—*The Commission shall share*
10 *with State attorneys general, as appropriate—*

11 “(i) *any report received from online*
12 *ticket issuers under subparagraph (A); and*

13 “(ii) *consumer complaints related to*
14 *any violation of this subsection that are*
15 *submitted through the Commission’s*
16 *website.*

17 “(3) *REQUIREMENT TO ADDRESS KNOWN CAUSES*
18 *OF CIRCUMVENTION.*—*Each online ticket issuer shall*
19 *take reasonable steps to improve its access control sys-*
20 *tems, security measures, and other technological con-*
21 *trols or measures to address any known or reasonably*
22 *foreseeable risks connected to incidents of circumven-*
23 *tion.*

24 “(4) *COMMISSION GUIDANCE.*—*Not later than 1*
25 *year after the date of enactment of the Mitigating*

1 *Automated Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act,*
 2 *the Commission shall publish guidance for online*
 3 *ticket issuers regarding compliance with the require-*
 4 *ments of this subsection.”;*

5 *(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-*
 6 *graph (2) of this subsection—*

7 *(A) by striking “subsection (a)” each place*
 8 *it appears and inserting “subsection (a) or (b)”;*
 9 *and*

10 *(B) by adding at the end the following new*
 11 *paragraph:*

12 *“(3) LIMITATION ON COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—*

13 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—No guidance issued by*
 14 *the Commission with respect to this Act shall*
 15 *confer any rights on any person, State, or local-*
 16 *ity, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or*
 17 *any person to the approach recommended in*
 18 *such guidance.*

19 *“(B) SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS.—In any en-*
 20 *forcement action brought pursuant to this Act,*
 21 *the Commission—*

22 *“(i) shall allege a specific violation of*
 23 *a provision of this Act; and*

24 *“(ii) may not base an enforcement ac-*
 25 *tion on, or execute a consent order based on,*

1 *practices that are alleged to be inconsistent*
2 *with any such guidance, unless the practices*
3 *allegedly violate this Act.”;*

4 *(5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
5 *graph (2) of this subsection, by striking “subsection*
6 *(a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection*
7 *(a) or (b)”;* and

8 *(6) by adding at the end the following new sub-*
9 *sections:*

10 *“(e) LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION.—*

11 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau of In-*
12 *vestigation, the Attorney General, and other relevant*
13 *State or local law enforcement officials shall coordi-*
14 *nate as appropriate with the Commission to share in-*
15 *formation about any known instance of a cyberattack*
16 *on a security measure, access control system, or other*
17 *technological control or measure on an Internet*
18 *website or online service that is used by an online*
19 *ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket purchasing*
20 *limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online*
21 *ticket purchasing order rules. Such coordination may*
22 *include providing information about ongoing inves-*
23 *tigations, but may exclude classified information or*
24 *information that could compromise a law enforcement*
25 *or national security effort, as appropriate.*

1 “(2) *CYBERATTACK DEFINED.*—*In this para-*
2 *graph, the term ‘cyberattack’ means an attack, via*
3 *cyberspace, targeting an enterprise’s use of cyberspace*
4 *for the purpose of—*

5 “(A) *disrupting, disabling, destroying, or*
6 *maliciously controlling a computing environ-*
7 *ment or computing infrastructure; or*

8 “(B) *destroying the integrity of data or*
9 *stealing controlled information.*

10 “(f) *CONGRESSIONAL REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year*
11 *after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commis-*
12 *sion shall report to Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
13 *Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy*
14 *and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the status*
15 *of any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Act, as*
16 *well as any identified limitations to the Commission’s abil-*
17 *ity to pursue incidents of circumvention described in sub-*
18 *section (a)(1)(A).”.*

19 “(b) *ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.*—*Section 3 of the Better*
20 *Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45c note) is*
21 *amended by adding at the end the following new para-*
22 *graphs:*

23 “(4) *CIRCUMVENTION.*—*The term ‘circumven-*
24 *tion’ means the act of avoiding, bypassing, removing,*
25 *deactivating, or otherwise impairing an access control*

1 *system, security measure, safeguard, or other techno-*
2 *logical control or measure described in section 2.*

3 “(5) *ONLINE TICKET ISSUER.*—*The term ‘online*
4 *ticket issuer’ means a ticket issuer that owns or oper-*
5 *ates an Internet website or online service that, in the*
6 *regular course of trade or business of the issuer, facili-*
7 *tates or executes the sale of event tickets to the general*
8 *public.”.*

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119TH CONGRESS
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[Report No. 119-57]

A BILL

To improve online ticket sales and protect
consumers, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Reported with an amendment