

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Forty-first Report — “Ticket Scalping Bill 2018” — Tabling

HON DR SALLY TALBOT (South West) [5.02 pm]: I am directed to present the forty-first report of the Standing Committee on Legislation, titled “Ticket Scalping Bill 2018”.

[See paper 3004.]

Hon Dr SALLY TALBOT: The report I have just tabled advises the house of the committee’s findings and recommendations regarding the Ticket Scalping Bill 2018. The bill implements an election commitment to introduce new laws to crack down on ticket scalping, the prevalence of which is contested and probably under-reported in Western Australia. The policy of the bill that the committee considered consists of four objectives, being to protect consumers from the detriment of paying inflated prices to commercial resellers for tickets to live sporting and entertainment events in Western Australia; provide a mechanism permitting the resale of tickets for the purchase price plus reasonable expenses when tickets can no longer be used by the original purchaser and to protect those subsequent purchases from cancellation; support event promoters and authorised ticket sellers in their efforts to prevent scalping; and ensure that venues in Western Australia remain attractive and competitive to promoters for the staging of events.

It is the committee’s view that the first three of these policy objectives have been addressed by the bill, which provides a legitimate secondary ticket reselling marketplace, creates the offence of selling a ticket for more than 10 per cent of the original ticket price, and prohibits the use of software to circumvent the security measures of ticket-selling websites. The fourth objective cannot be assessed at this time but should, the committee suggests, be evaluated when the bill is reviewed, under clause 16.

The committee is concerned by evidence that the contingent sales prohibition in the bill may have a deleterious impact on the ticket broking industry; therefore, it has put forward for consideration an amendment to clause 8 to protect those ticket brokers who adhere to a code of ethics, ensuring public confidence in the integrity and service of ticket brokers. The committee has made 15 findings and seven recommendations. I commend the report to the house.