



‘The Hottest Ticket in Town!’

TICKET SCALPING BILL

2018

FIRST AND SECOND READING

Adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office from the original text of the Western Australian Parliamentary Debates, 2018-19.

Ticket Scalping Bill

TEACHER'S NOTES

Introduction

The State Government introduced a Ticket Scalping Bill in 2018 to restrict the resale of tickets to a range of events hosted in Western Australia and prohibit the use of software designed to bypass security measures on ticket-selling websites. The provisions in the Bill relate to the resale of tickets to all events in Western Australia for which a resale restriction has been imposed by the authorised seller as a term or condition of purchase of the ticket.

The Bill aims to:

- Prohibit the resale and/or advertising of tickets at a price that is higher than the original ticket price plus 10 per cent.
- Render void any resale restriction on a ticket that provides for cancellation, provided that the ticket is resold for an amount not exceeding 110 per cent of the original ticket price.
- Prohibit the use of software programs (bots) to circumvent security measures of a ticket-sales website.
- Confer investigation and enforcement functions and powers on the Commissioner for Consumer Protection consistent with those that currently apply under the Fair Trading Act 2010.

The text of this role-play has been adapted from the Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) record of the first and second readings in the Legislative Assembly (the Lower House). It is designed for use during the class visit to Parliament and aids in explaining the key workings of the Parliament. However, the script and glossary can also be used by the class teacher as a springboard or adjunct to programs aimed at achieving outcomes set out in the Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) area of the WA Curriculum Framework.

Preparation for Role Play

It is important that the background information contained in the Introduction and the listed glossary terms be discussed with the students. Roles should be allocated and rehearsed prior to the visit to Parliament so that the students can read their part with confidence and understanding. This not only avoids potential embarrassment on the part of the reader, but also enables those students who do not have reading roles to better understand and follow the debate.

Glossary

(Concepts and vocabulary within the context of this exercise)

Vocabulary	Meaning	Usage
bill	a proposed idea or draft law.	<i>The bill was debated yesterday.</i>
legislation	the process of law making	<i>This new legislation will improve services for the people of Western Australia.</i>
commend	to give approval and support - (base word in <i>recommend</i>).	<i>I commend this film to you all. It's a fantastic thriller.</i>
motion	a formal proposal – an application for a ruling.	<i>The motion is, we all wear uniform to the parade.</i>
adjourn (v)	to close a session of discussion.	<i>We will adjourn the meeting.</i>
[to] table (v)	in Parliament it means to officially present something in the House by placing it on the central 'table of the House'. Usually a report but sometimes an object.	<i>"I hope the Minister will table the report before continuing."</i>
Aye (pronounced 'eye')	the old-fashioned word used for voting "Yes" in Parliament.	<i>All those in favour say "Aye".</i>
ticket scalpers (n)	people who buy and then resell tickets for popular events at inflated prices.	<i>Ticket scalpers</i> trick people into paying more for their tickets to popular events.
inflated prices (n)	paying a lot more for a ticket than what the event organiser / venue is selling it for.	Resale of tickets at inflated prices is making popular events increasingly unaffordable for fans.
consumers (n)	another term for customers.	We do not support consumers being ripped off to attend events that they want to attend.
<i>Hansard</i>	the official written record of the debate speeches from Parliament and so named after the first British family who printed the transcript of the House of Commons.	
Introduction and first reading	the House formally grants permission to a Member to introduce a bill and the Clerk then reads the long title of the bill.	
Second reading speech	a speech in which the principle or purpose of the bill is summarised and explained by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary who is introducing it.	
Second reading debate	the debate of a bill by members of the House where they express their views and may hint at changes or amendments they would like to make.	
Consideration in Detail <i>[not occurring in this role-play]</i>	a committee stage (and not technically a debate) where the bill is considered clause by clause and changes can be suggested through a motion and then voted on.	
Third reading <i>[not occurring in this role-play]</i>	the formal final reading of the bill's long title by the Clerk in readiness for the bill to be delivered to the other House of Parliament, with a message seeking agreement and acceptance of the bill.	

CAST DATA SHEET
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES EXERCISE
Scalping Bill 2018
(18 reading roles)

Clerk of Legislative Assembly	Member for Roe
SPEAKER	Member for Belmont
Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations	Member for Wanneroo
Member for Hillarys	Member for Dawesville
Member for Vasse	Member for Mount Lawley
Member for South Perth	Member for Armadale
Member for Nedlands	Member for Baldivis
Member for Churchlands	Member for Mirrabooka
Member for Butler	Member for Darling Range



Ticket Scalping Bill 2018

“The Hottest Ticket in Town”

The following role-playing exercise is based on the original text from the Parliamentary Debates of the 40th Parliament of Western Australia, Legislative Assembly 2018/19. It has been adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office to suit the needs of students.

Best results occur when the reading roles are allocated and rehearsed beforehand.

SPEAKER:	<p>The question is that the bill be read a first time.</p> <p>Those in favour say “Aye” (<i>most members say “Aye”</i>).</p> <p>Those against, “No” (<i>nobody says “No”</i>)</p> <p>I think the “Ayes” have it.</p> <p>The “Ayes” have it.</p>
	<p><i>Presents the bill document</i></p> <p><i>The bill is delivered to the Clerk for its First Reading</i></p>
CLERK:	<p>Ticket Scalping Bill 2018. An Act to restrict the resale of event tickets and to prohibit the use of computer software designed to bypass security measures on ticket selling websites, and for related purposes.</p>
MINISTER:	<p>Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.</p>

<p>MINISTER:</p>	<p>Ticket scalping has become a problem as consumers are often tricked into buying resale tickets to events such as music concerts and sports at inflated prices. Popular events are becoming increasingly unaffordable for fans.</p> <p>Commercial resellers use software bots to buy tickets in bulk quantities immediately after tickets are released, which can also make it difficult for consumers to access tickets from the original sellers.</p> <p>This legislation will prohibit the resale of tickets at a price that is higher than the original cost. If any individual breaks these conditions, they will receive a \$20,000 fine, while businesses face a fine of \$100,000.</p> <p>I commend the bill to the House.</p>
<p>Most Members:</p>	<p>Hear, hear!</p>
<p>MEMBER for NEDLANDS:</p>	<p>Speaker?</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The Member for Nedlands.</p>
<p>MEMBER for NEDLANDS:</p>	<p>Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The question is that the debate be adjourned?</p> <p>Those in favour say “Aye” (<i>most members say “Aye”</i>).</p> <p>Those against, “No” (<i>nobody says “No”</i>)</p> <p>I think the “Ayes” have it. The “Ayes” have it. Debate is adjourned.</p>

SPEAKER:	Do we have any speakers? The Member for Darling Range
MEMBER for DARLING RANGE	Thank you Speaker. I recently bought tickets to the Lady Gaga concert during a pre-sale, with further tickets selling to the general public 3 days later. While I was posting on social media about my excitement that I had managed to score tickets, I noticed an ad placed by a different company that was selling tickets to the same concert before the public could access them officially, which is totally wrong!
MEMBER for HILLARYS	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Hillarys.
MEMBER for HILLARYS:	A couple came to Perth to watch the West Coast Eagles play in the finals at Optus Stadium. Like other fans, they bought their tickets online; however, the purchase was made through a ticketing outlet, which charged them \$352 for two match tickets worth only \$118. They arrived at the turnstiles only to be told that someone else had used their tickets to enter the venue. How will this legislation deal with that example?
MEMBER for BELMONT:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Belmont.
MEMBER for BELMONT:	I'm a huge Kanye West fan.
MEMBER FOR ARMADALE: <i>Interjects remains seated</i>	I prefer Drake and Kendrick Lamar.
MEMBER for BELMONT:	Yeah they're pretty cool too, Member for Armadale, but in this case, tickets were selling at a premium, making it too expensive for some fans in my electorate.
MEMBER FOR ROE	Speaker!

SPEAKER:	The Member for Roe.
MEMBER for ROE:	I am a massive sporting fan and a passionate Perth Glory supporter!
MEMBER FOR ARMADALE: <i>Interjects remains seated</i>	AFL is the real home of football!
MEMBER for ROE:	That's your opinion Member for Armadale! The problem with ticket scalpers is that they are often overseas-based companies and difficult to track down. Whether it be with sporting events or music concerts, consumers need to be protected from scalpers, and I hope this legislation achieves this.
MEMBER for SOUTH PERTH:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for South Perth.
MEMBER for SOUTH PERTH:	I'm a huge AFL fan and managed to get tickets to last year's Grand Final at the MCG! The Victorian government has passed legislation on ticket scalping already, but to my surprise I saw fans walking around the venue holding signs up saying that they would be willing to pay up to \$2 000 for a ticket. Scalpers were also on the scene trying to sell tickets at inflated prices.
MEMBER FOR BUTLER <i>interjects, remains seated</i>	Were the Police around to move the scalpers on at least?
MEMBER for SOUTH PERTH:	Not a policeman in sight, which was quite odd! Everyone should have an equal chance at buying legitimate tickets. Only time will tell if this legislation will work.
MEMBER for VASSE:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Vasse
MEMBER for VASSE:	This legislation doesn't address the important issue of what happens to these overseas companies that are using software bots to purchase tickets in bulk and reselling them to consumers at inflated prices. How does the government plan to prosecute them if they are caught? This issue needs to be addressed before I support this Bill.

MEMBER for WANNEROO:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Wanneroo.
MEMBER for WANNEROO:	This legislation that the government has introduced will make sure that families in Western Australia get a fair crack at buying tickets to various exciting events. I think it's going in the right direction!
MEMBER FOR BUTLER: <i>interjects, remains seated</i>	Hear! Hear!
MEMBER for DAWESVILLE:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Dawesville.
MEMBER for DAWESVILLE:	This Bill seems a little rushed to me in terms of cybersecurity. Selling tickets online could allow someone to replicate the ticket using design-based software and to pass it off as a real ticket. One idea could be to obstruct a seat allocation number until the consumer enters in a unique code via email to confirm that they are the real ticket holder. Has the government considered that as a security option?
MEMBER for NEDLANDS: <i>Interjects, remains seated</i>	That's a really good idea! I wish they had this in place when my sister bought tickets to the Eminem concert. Her ticket was replicated but, fortunately, the venue found her a seat in the end, so she didn't miss out!
MEMBER FOR BUTLER: <i>interjects, remains seated</i>	Wow, that was lucky! Eminem's concerts are very popular! No use having a ticket that isn't the 'Real Slim Shady'!
MEMBER FOR MOUNT LAWLEY:	Speaker!
SPEAKER:	The Member for Mount Lawley.

<p>MEMBER for MOUNT LAWLEY:</p>	<p>I am a fan of local WA music and it is pleasing to see that the Government is offering grants to support the local industry. This legislation will also ensure that local musicians are protected from ticket scalping, and I think it's a great idea.</p>
<p>MEMBER for CHURCHLANDS:</p>	<p>Speaker!</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The Member for Churchlands.</p>
<p>MEMBER for CHURCHLANDS:</p>	<p>The Member for Dawesville raised a valid point about replicating tickets online. I wish to add the issue of the use of apps, as opposed to purchasing tickets on websites.</p> <p>Does this legislation consider the use of apps, which is the way of the world now? And are there contingencies in place for consumers using apps to buy tickets?</p> <p>I would be interested to hear the minister's response to this.</p>
<p>MEMBER for MIRRABOOKA:</p>	<p>Speaker!</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The Member for Mirrabooka.</p>
<p>MEMBER for MIRRABOOKA:</p>	<p>This legislation is highlighting our election commitment to ensure that Western Australians are not exploited. People argue that the cost of sporting and music events is already inflated.</p> <p>This bill seeks to prevent further inflation of ticket prices and I am sure that it is a bill that the house will support.</p>
<p>MEMBER for BALDIVIS:</p>	<p>Speaker!</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The Member for Baldivis.</p>

<p>MEMBER for BALDIVIS:</p>	<p>Some hard luck stories and extreme cases of scalping in Western Australia have been raised. WAtoday reported that the Ed Sheeran concert at Optus Stadium saw scalpers selling tickets worth \$166 for as much as \$2 000 each.</p> <p>This legislation will bring fairness to our state by making ticket prices affordable for everyone.</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>The Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations.</p>
<p>MINISTER:</p>	<p>Thank you Speaker. I would like to thank all members for their contributions to this bill. We have heard a few stories from members who have experienced the pain of ticket scalping first hand. With this bill, anyone who commits an offence relating to ticket scalping within Western Australia will be prosecuted.</p> <p>This government is committed to stopping these scalpers from ripping off hardworking West Australians, and I think the penalties that will be imposed is a step in the right direction!</p> <p>I move that this bill be read a second time!</p>
<p>SPEAKER:</p>	<p>Members, the question is that the bill be read a second time.</p> <p>Those in favour say “Aye” (<i>most members say “Aye”</i>).</p> <p>Those against, “No” (<i>nobody says “No”</i>)</p> <p>I think the “Ayes” have it. The “Ayes” have it.</p>
<p>CLERK:</p>	<p>Ticket Scalping Bill 2018. An Act to restrict the resale of event tickets and to prohibit the use of computer software designed to bypass security measures on ticket selling websites, and for related purposes.</p>