

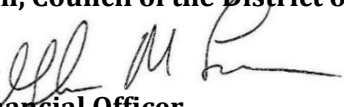
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: June 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Restricting Egregious Scalping Against Live Entertainment (RESALE) Amendment Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-0224, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 16, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2026 and proposed fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill costs \$150,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3.1 million through fiscal year 2030.

Background

The bill establishes a new chapter of code governing the sale and resale¹ of live event tickets in the District. The bill requires that ticket issuers², secondary ticket exchanges³, and resellers⁴ to conspicuously disclose the total ticket⁵ price, including all associated taxes, fees, and seat information

¹ Defined as the second or subsequent sale of a ticket by any method, including in-person transactions, telephone, mail, e-mail, facsimile, or electronic means through a website or mobile application.

² Defined as a person or their agent who issues tickets for initial sale, including musicians, venues, promoters, theater companies, and marketplaces for initial purchases.

³ Defined as an electronic marketplace that enables a person to sell, purchase, and resell tickets.

⁴ Means a person engaged in the resale of tickets.

⁵ Defined as any form of physical, electronic, or other evidence that grants the possessor of the evidence license to enter a place of entertainment for one or more events, including live concerts, theatrical performances, shows, or similarly scheduled live activities, at a specified date and time; provided, that the event is not organized by a professional or intercollegiate sports team located in the District or professional

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at each step of a transaction. The bill mandates that the final total price, in an itemized manner, inclusive of shipping for physically delivered tickets, must be disclosed prior to purchase. The bill entitles consumers to refunds⁶, including taxes and fees, if a ticket is counterfeit, an event is canceled, or the ticket does not match its description.

The bill prohibits resellers and secondary ticket exchanges from selling or offering speculative tickets⁷ and ticket issuers are restricted from limiting the transfer of tickets unless terms are clearly disclosed before purchase and acknowledged by the consumer. Issuers may still impose conduct, safety, age, and quantity restrictions.

The bill requires ticket issuers and secondary ticket exchanges to implement reasonable technology to block automated tools designed to circumvent ticket purchase limits. The bill requires secondary ticket exchanges to ensure that resellers are properly licensed and bonded⁸ and that resellers comply with conspicuous ticket price disclosure requirements. The bill authorizes the Mayor to establish limits on ticket resale prices.⁹

Violations are Class II civil infractions¹⁰, subject to fines¹¹, and constitute unlawful trade practices under District law.¹² The Mayor must issue implementing rules.

The bill requires resellers that list 50 or more¹³ tickets per year to obtain a license¹⁴ and secondary ticket exchanges to obtain a basic business license¹⁵ through the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection ("DLCP"). Licensed resellers must maintain a \$25,000 surety bond¹⁶ to compensate consumers for ticket delivery failures or fraud, including related travel costs. The bill mandates that DLCP maintain a public list of licensed resellers and violations. Resellers and secondary ticket exchanges must retain detailed¹⁷ transaction records for three years and provide

athletic association with an event located in the District; provided further, that the event is not a motion picture screening.

⁶ Refunds must be issued within 10 days, though nonprofits organized under Chapter 4 of Title 29 may allow consumers to donate the cost instead.

⁷ Defined as a ticket that is not in the actual or constructive possession of a reseller at the time of listing, sale, resale, or advertisement, including tickets that are not owned by the reseller or not under contract to be transferred to the reseller.

⁸ Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 47-2890.02.

⁹ Expressed in a percentage of the total price of the initial ticket.

¹⁰ Penalties are in addition to existing remedies available to the Attorney General pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 28-3909.

¹¹ Pursuant to section 3201 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (16 DCMR § 3201).

¹² Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 28-3904.

¹³ Duplicate listings across platforms count toward the threshold.

¹⁴ Applicants must provide their full legal name and any aliases or usernames used in the resale of tickets; contact information, including a physical street address, email address, and phone number; all associated entities involved in the resale of tickets; proof of current surety bond; and any additional information required by DLCP. All entities under common ownership or control of a person are considered one reseller for the purposes of licensure.

¹⁵ D.C. Official Code § 47-2851.02.

¹⁶ DLCP may adjust bond requirements by rule.

¹⁷ Licensed ticket resellers must keep records of: the total number of tickets they resold during the previous year; the original purchase price of each ticket; the final resale price of each ticket sold. Secondary ticket exchanges must keep record of: information on all licensed resellers using the platform; and details of all

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them upon request, and exchanges must report unlicensed or non-compliant resellers. DLCP may suspend, revoke, or deny licenses for violations and non-compliance is deemed an unlawful trade practice.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2026 and proposed fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill costs \$150,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3.1 million through fiscal year 2030.

Restricting Egregious Scalping Against Live Entertainment (RESALE) Amendment Act of 2026						
Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2030						
(thousands \$)						
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	Total
Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection	\$150	\$685	\$317	\$323	\$330	\$1,806
Office of Administrative Hearings	\$0	\$333	\$340	\$347	\$354	\$1,374
TOTAL	\$150	\$1,019	\$657	\$670	\$684	\$3,180

Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection

DLCP needs a total of \$150,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1.8 million over the financial plan to implement the bill. To administer the bill, DLCP will need to hire additional personnel—consisting of one Attorney Advisor and one Data Scientist—that will cost \$259,942 in fiscal year 2027 and \$1 million through fiscal year 2030.

The bill requires resellers that meet ticket thresholds and secondary ticket exchanges to be licensed through DLCP. The bill requires DLCP to take enforcement action against ticket resellers and third-party platforms that fail to comply with the new licensing requirements through the imposition of civil fines or license suspension or revocation. Furthermore, the bill makes it an actionable offense if a reseller does not adhere to the price and refund requirements, resulting in an anticipated uptick in complaints filed by consumers. Enforcement action initiated by DLCP will produce an increase in appeals handled by DLCP’s Office of the General Counsel (OGC). To maintain even caseload distribution and turnaround time for appeals, DLCP requires an additional Attorney Advisor. This attorney costs \$145,933 in fiscal year 2027 and \$1 million through fiscal year 2030.

DLCP also requires staffing and technological equipment to monitor activity the bill makes illegal. DLCP requires a Data Scientist position, which would assist with bot and fraud detection; scrape and monitor secondary market prices in near real time to ensure resellers are not overcharging

ticket resales for events in the District, including the number of tickets resold, each ticket’s original purchase price, and each ticket’s final resale price.

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consumers; track hidden fees; run controlled tests¹⁸ to detect discriminatory or exploitative patterns; assist with responding to complaints by aiding DLCP investigators in gathering information; model counterfactual markets¹⁹, estimate consumer harm from hidden fees, and build the statistical exhibits that support court cases; and assess the impact of the law by measuring whether all-in pricing mandates actually changed consumer behavior or just shifted where hidden fees appear. This Data Scientist costs \$114,010 in fiscal year 2027 and \$470,355 through fiscal year 2030. DLCP expects technology upgrades will be necessary to adequately track and monitor online ticket sales and maintain a public list of licensed resellers and violations. The Data Scientist will be responsible for implementing the new system. DLCP requires \$125,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$603,040 through fiscal year 2030 for information technology enhancements and ongoing maintenance.

DLCP requires \$25,000 in FY 2026 and \$130,101 through fiscal year 2030 for annual training regarding the newly imposed monitoring and compliance requirements for ticket issuers, resellers, and secondary ticket exchanges for DLCP's Business Licensing Division, OGC, and investigators; and to update DLCP's communication materials, including its online FAQs and Advisory Notices.

e

DLCP Costs						
Fiscal Year 2026 – Fiscal Year 2030						
(thousands \$)						
	FY 2026^(a)	FY 2027^(b)	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	Total
Salary ^(c)	\$0	\$212	\$216	\$221	\$225	\$875
Fringe ^(d)	\$0	\$48	\$49	\$50	\$51	\$198
Staff Training	\$25	\$26	\$26	\$27	\$27	\$130
IT Systems Initial Configuration and Maintenance ^(e)	\$125	\$400	\$26	\$26	\$27	\$603
TOTAL	\$150	\$685	\$317	\$323	\$330	\$1,806

Table Notes:

- (a) Fiscal year 2026 accounts for all training costs for existing DLCP staff and three months of costs for procurement and/or initial configuration of the IT system.
- (b) Fiscal year 2027 assumes all employees are hired and subsequent related costs are realized.
- (c) One Grade 13, Step 1 Attorney Advisor and one Grade 13, Step 1 Data Scientist. Assumes annual 2 percent growth.
- (d) Fringe rate of 22.5 percent. Assumes 2.35 percent annual growth.
- (e) Fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 include one-time costs.

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)

OAH needs a total of \$333,202 in fiscal year 2027 and \$1.3 million over the financial plan to implement the bill.

¹⁸ Buying tickets with varied browser profiles, locations, and purchase histories.

¹⁹ What prices would look like without monopoly power.

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The bill requires DLCP to take enforcement action against ticket resellers and third-party platforms that fail to comply with the new licensing requirements and consumer protection requirements of the bill. . OAH anticipates an increased caseload tied to the likelihood that a license holder will contest a suspension or revocation of a license under the proposed legislation.

To manage the expected increase in caseload, OAH anticipates needing an additional Administrative Law Judge and a Legal Assistant. These positions will cost \$283,202 in fiscal year 2027 and \$1.1 million through fiscal year 2030. The Administrative Law Judge will conduct proceedings (including evidentiary hearings and status conferences), and draft orders based on the factual and legal merits of a case. The Legal Assistant will support case intake; perform data entry; manage scheduling; process and serve orders; and handle the administrative aspects of case record management.

OAH additionally requires \$50,000 in fiscal year 2027 and \$206,000 through fiscal year 2030 to cover the cost of training, equipment and licenses, and supplies for the two new employees.

OAH Costs					
Fiscal Year 2027 – Fiscal Year 2030					
(thousands \$)					
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	Total
Salary ^(a)	\$233	\$237	\$242	\$247	\$958
Fringe ^(b)	\$51	\$52	\$53	\$54	\$210
Equipment and Training	\$50	\$51	\$52	\$53	\$206
TOTAL	\$333	\$340	\$347	\$354	\$1,374

Table Notes:

(a) One Administrative Law Judge and one Grade 5, Step 6 Legal Assistant. Assumes annual 2 percent growth.

(b) Fiscal year 2027 fringe rate of 21.8 percent. Assumes annual 2.35 percent growth.