



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

# NEWS

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Blagojevich signs law to allow online ticket auctions**

*Bill is intended to foster competition  
and bring down ticket prices*

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich will sign a new law tomorrow that will help bring competition to the broker market in order to reduce ticket prices, by giving individuals options to sell tickets through online auctions, and creating protections for consumers who purchase tickets from online auction sites to sporting, music or other entertainment events in Illinois.

“This will help bring more competition to the market, bring down ticket prices and give people the freedom to make their own arrangements,” said Gov. Blagojevich. “If you can buy and sell all kinds of products online and get a fair price or make a reasonable profit, you should be able to do the same thing with tickets for events in Illinois. If you have tickets to a concert or a ballgame and you can’t go, you should be able to sell them online without going through a ticket broker.”

House Bill 873, the Ticket Sale and Resale Act, was sponsored by State Representative Angelo Saviano (R-River Grove) and State Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park).

Current law allows only for licensed brokers to sell tickets for a gain in Illinois. The Ticket Sale and Resale Act will allow other individuals and organizations to sell tickets for a price higher than face value on Internet auction sites, in-state Internet sites, and not for profit or charitable auctions.

The Act also clarifies that brokers can sell tickets near event sites, such as sports stadiums as long as they are on property they have permission to occupy.

Supporters of this bill have indicated it will foster an environment of more competition in the ticket broker market, which may result in lower prices for tickets overall.

“Under prior law, only licensed ticket brokers could sell tickets for more than the price printed on the tickets. This law gives individuals the opportunity to recoup their costs for unusable

tickets,” said Rep. Saviano. “People wanting to attend sold-out events in Illinois will have the option of purchasing tickets without having to go through ticket brokers. We hope that these options will give potential purchasers more options and better prices.”

“Equally important, this law strengthens the protections for purchasers of the tickets from online auctions if an event is cancelled, or if the seller misrepresented the tickets,” said Sen. Harmon. “If an event is cancelled, or the tickets aren’t as described, a purchaser will have options for getting his or her money back, either through the online auction firm or ultimately through the State of Illinois.”

The buyer protections include a money-back guarantee if the tickets are counterfeit, are never delivered or if the event is canceled. A new dispute resolution process includes a consumer protection rebate insurance fund of at least \$100,000, paid by each online auction house. The insurance policy must be filed with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

The Ticket Sale and Resale Act becomes effective immediately upon signing.