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## **Press Release**

**For Immediate Action**

**Thursday, March 3, 2016**

### **Boyle Bill Levels Playing Field for Ticket Sales**

***Legislation goes after Computer “bot” technology for purchasing event tickets***

Albany, NY – NYS Senator Phil Boyle has introduced legislation that will amend the State penal law to create a criminal penalty to use automated ticket purchasing software or computer “bots” when purchasing event tickets.

The use of the so-called computer “bots” provides an unfair advantage over ordinary individuals by bypassing ticket websites security features. Using and owning a “bot” to purchase tickets is already illegal. However, current law provides for only monetary penalties for using and owning automated ticketing purchasing software. Adding criminal penalties and potential jail time to these crimes will act as a deterrent to individuals from using the prohibited software.

“It has happened to me and millions of people across the country,” said Senator Boyle. “That premium concert or event finally comes to town – the clock ticks down and you jump on the phone or your computer and before you finally get through the event is sold out! In a matter of minutes the “bots” have jumped in, bought up every available ticket and is now reselling them for huge profits. That’s unfair. And now those who are responsible must not only pay the fine but, they should also do the time!”

If passed, this legislation will add two new sections to the penal laws 165.75 and 165.76 stating;

-Using automated ticket purchasing software is a Class A misdemeanor;

-Having an interest or control of automated ticket purchasing software is a Class E felony.

Senator Boyle has introduced this legislation, (bill # S6893). For more information on this bill, visit NYS website at: <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/philip-boyle>

Senator Boyle is available to speak on this issue via phone or studio link. If you are interested in an interview or would like additional information please contact Senator Boyle’s Communications Department at (631) 665-2311.

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