

January 27, 2005

S 2. NO VIOLENT/OBSCENE VIDEO GAME SALES TO MINOR. TO PROHIBIT THE DISSEMINATION OF OBSCENE AND GRAPHICALLY VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES TO MINORS AND TO REQUIRE VIDEO GAME RETAILERS TO INFORM CONSUMERS THAT A VIDEO GAME RATING SYSTEM IS AVAILABLE. Enacts new GS 14-317.1 and 14-317.2 as title indicates, and makes dissemination of violent and obscene videos a Class 1 misdemeanor. Enacts new GS 14-190.13(7) defining "video games." Effective Dec. 1, 2005.

Intro. by Boseman.

Ref. to Commerce

GS 14

April 19, 2005

S 2. NO VIOLENT/OBSCENE VIDEO GAME SALES TO MINOR. Intro. 1/27/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. (1) Modifies proposed GS 14-317.1 to define "minor" and "video arcade" and to provide that phrase "harmful to minors" includes those video games that depict graphic violence that would be found by an average adult person applying contemporary community standards to have a predominant tendency to appeal to a morbid interest of minors in violence, to be patently offensive to prevailing adult community standards of what is suitable for minors, and to lack literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. (2) Modifies proposed GS 14-317.2 to prohibit sales or rentals of games that are harmful to minors and make it an offense for a video arcade to charge minor a fee to operate a video game that is harmful to minors. (3) Provides that it is an affirmative defense to a violation of GS 14-317.2 if person is a parent or legal guardian of the minor, if minor presented specific identification showing that minor was at least 18 years old, or if transaction was made with the prior consent of minor's parent or guardian. States that a mistake of age is not an affirmative defense. (4) Enacts new GS 14-317.3 requiring that game retailers and arcades locate video games that are harmful to minors in a separate viewing area that is labeled "adults only." Makes violation of section a Class 2 misdemeanor. (5) Transfers video game rating system provisions from GS 14-317.2 to new GS 14-317.4 and requires that video game retailer and arcade owner post a sign notifying consumers of a game industry rating system and provide information explaining system upon consumer's request. Makes violation a Class 3 misdemeanor. (6) Enacts new Article 41 of GS Chapter 66 to require that video game retailer or arcade owner label video games that contain graphic violence to accurately describe the type of violence portrayed in video. Makes violation of that provision an unfair practice. Makes technical changes.

April 20, 2005

S 2. NO VIOLENT/OBSCENE VIDEO GAME SALES TO MINOR. Intro. 1/27/05. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 4th edition. Amends GS 14-190.13(5)e. to delete exception for GS 14-190.17A.