

Media Coalition, Inc.
Legislative Update, January 14, 2004

State Bill #	<u>California</u> H.B. 1792	<u>California</u> H.B. 1793	<u>Ohio</u> S.B. 4360
Intro. date	1/5/2004	1/5/2004	11/12/2003
Subject	<p>Would expand the definition of harmful to minors to include videogames that appeal to a minors morbid interest in violence in any game that allows a user to inflict injuries on characters that are “especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel.” The bill excludes any games pitting two players against each other.</p>	<p>Would require any retailer of videogames to keep all games rated “Mature” shelved separately from games non-“M” games. Also, the games must be shelved at least 5 feet above the ground. It would also require retailers to create a separate, adults-only for the display of games or advertising material for games rated “Adults Only.” Also, retailers must post signs with an explanation of the ESRB rating system.</p>	<p>Would bar libraries from receiving any state funding unless it enforces the “R” rating for video loans. Also, libraries must install filtering software or use an ISP that provides filtered access to block “harmful to minors” material if computer is accessible by minors and for “obscenity” if computers are accessed by adults. The filters can be disabled for bona fide research.</p>
Committee			Judiciary and Criminal Justice Committee
Status			
Still active	Yes		Yes