

Media Coalition, Inc.
Legislative Update, February 11, 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” to keep the games 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	Yes

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State Bill #	<u>North Miami</u>	<u>Washington</u> H.B. 2595	<u>Washington</u> S.J.M. 8042
Intro. date		1/16/2004	1/26/2004
Subject	Would bar sale or rental of videogames with "A" or MO" rating or certain violent content to minors.	Would direct the Department of Community, Trade and Economic development to develop a system to monitor retailer compliance with enforcement of videogame ratings. The director of the department may appoint an advisory group to assist in developing the monitoring system.	Asks Congress to enact legislation banning the advertising on television for any videogames rated "AO" or "M."
Committee		Yes	Judiciary and Criminal Justice Committee
Status	Passed on first reading but held over pending resolution of <i>VSDA v. Maleng</i> litigation.	Must be passed out of Rules Committee by 2/16.	Committee on Children, Family Services and Corrections
Still active	Yes	Yes	No