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HOUSE BILL 1316

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Schindler, O'Brien, Boldt, Sump, Lovick, Miloscia, Mulliken, Lambert, Benson, Mielke, Ahern, Ericksen, McMorris, Carrell and Esser

Read first time 01/23/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety and well-being of children; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 9.68 RCW; repealing RCW 9.68.015, 9.68.050,  
3 9.68.060, 9.68.070, 9.68.080, 9.68.090, 9.68.100, 9.68.110, 9.68.120,  
4 9.68.130, 9.68A.140, 9.68A.150, and 9.68A.160; prescribing penalties;  
5 and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that sexually explicit  
8 materials are harmful to the safety and well-being of children. Such  
9 graphic materials contribute to increased sexual activity by children  
10 along with higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases, illegitimate  
11 pregnancies, and acts of sexual aggression by children against other  
12 children. The legislature intends by this act to promote the safety  
13 and well-being of children by limiting the ability of children to  
14 access sexually explicit materials and to ensure the law reinforces and  
15 supports the wishes of parents regarding their children's access to  
16 such graphic materials.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** As used in sections 1 through 6 of this act,  
2 the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context  
3 clearly requires otherwise.

4        (1) "Harmful to minors" means any matter or live performance:

5        (a) That the average adult person, applying contemporary community  
6 standards, would find, when considered as a whole, appeals to the  
7 prurient interest of minors; and

8        (b) That explicitly depicts or describes, by prevailing standards  
9 in the adult community with respect to what is suitable for minors,  
10 patently offensive representations or descriptions of:

11        (i) Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated;

12 or

13        (ii) Masturbation, fellatio, cunnilingus, bestiality, excretory  
14 functions, lewd exhibition of the genitals or genital area, sexually  
15 explicit conduct, sexual excitement, or sexually explicit nudity; or

16        (iii) Sexual acts that are violent or destructive, including but  
17 not limited to human or animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape, or  
18 torture; and

19        (c) That, when considered as a whole, and in the context in which  
20 it is used, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific  
21 value for minors.

22        (2) "Matter" means a motion picture film, a publication, a sexual  
23 device, or any combination thereof.

24        (3) "Motion picture film" means any:

25        (a) Film or plate negative;

26        (b) Film or plate positive;

27        (c) Film designed to be projected on a screen for exhibition;

28        (d) Film, glass slides, or transparencies, either in negative or  
29 positive form, designed for exhibition by projection on a screen;

30        (e) Videotape; or

31        (f) Any other medium used to electronically transmit or reproduce  
32 images on a screen.

33        (4) "Publication" means any book, magazine, article, pamphlet,  
34 writing, printing illustration, picture, sound recording, telephonic  
35 communication, or coin-operated machine.

36        (5) "Live performance" means any play, show, skit, dance, or other  
37 exhibition performed or presented to or before an audience of one or  
38 more, in person or by electronic transmission, or by telephonic  
39 communication, with or without consideration.

1 (6) "Knowledge" means knowledge as defined in RCW 9A.08.010(1)(b).

2 (7) "Knowledge of its character" means that the person has  
3 knowledge that the matter or performance contains, depicts, or  
4 describes activity or conduct that may be found to be patently  
5 offensive under subsection (1)(b) of this section. Such knowledge may  
6 be proved by direct or circumstantial evidence, or both.

7 (8) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen years.

8 (9) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association,  
9 corporation, or other legal entity.

10 (10) "Sexual device" means any artificial device primarily  
11 designed, promoted, or marketed to physically stimulate or manipulate  
12 the human genitals.

13 (11) "Sexual excitement" means the condition of human male or  
14 female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal; or  
15 the depiction of covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state.

16 (12) "Sexually explicit conduct" means physical contact with a  
17 person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, perineum,  
18 or, if such person is a female, breast.

19 (13) "Sexually explicit nudity" means the showing of the human male  
20 or female genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or perineum with less than a  
21 full opaque covering; or the showing of the female breast with less  
22 than a full opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the  
23 nipple.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No person may with knowledge of its  
25 character:

26 (1) Display matter that is harmful to minors in such a way that  
27 minors, as part of the invited general public, will be exposed to view  
28 the matter; however, a person is deemed not to have displayed matter  
29 harmful to minors if:

30 (a) The matter is kept behind devices commonly known as blinder  
31 racks so that the lower two-thirds of the matter is not exposed to  
32 view; or

33 (b) In the case of an operator who transmits matter that is harmful  
34 to minors via cable television transmissions, the operator first  
35 notifies the subscriber of the availability of a device that allows a  
36 subscriber to prohibit the viewing of a particular cable transmission;  
37 or

1 (c) In the case of a person who provides a minor with access to a  
2 computer containing matter that is harmful to minors stored locally, or  
3 that can be connected to the internet, the computer is equipped with  
4 specialized filtering software actively installed for the purpose of  
5 protecting minors from accessing matter that is harmful to minors; or

6 (d) In the case of a person publishing a world wide web page  
7 containing matter that is harmful to minors, the web page contains  
8 codes or hidden comments that trigger the blocking mechanisms of any  
9 browser-filtering software that is designed for the purpose of  
10 protecting minors from accessing matter that is harmful to minors; or

11 (e) In the case of a person hosting or mirroring internet content  
12 on servers located within the state of Washington, the person mandates  
13 the inclusion in all web pages of codes or hidden comments that trigger  
14 the blocking mechanisms of any browser-filtering software that is  
15 designed for the purpose of protecting minors from accessing matter  
16 that is harmful to minors; or

17 (f) In the case of a person providing electronic communications or  
18 telecommunications access or connection to or from a facility, system,  
19 or network, whether one-way or interactive, including transmission,  
20 downloading, storage, navigational tools, and related capabilities that  
21 are incidental to the provision of the electronic communications or  
22 telecommunications access or connection, the person mandates the  
23 inclusion in all web pages of codes or hidden comments that trigger the  
24 blocking mechanisms of any browser-filtering software that is designed  
25 for the purpose of protecting minors from accessing matter that is  
26 harmful to minors;

27 (2) Sell, furnish, present, distribute, allow to view or hear, or  
28 otherwise disseminate to a minor, with or without consideration, any  
29 matter that is harmful to minors; or

30 (3) Present to a minor or participate in presenting to a minor,  
31 with or without consideration, any live performance that is harmful to  
32 minors.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In any prosecution for violation of section  
34 3 of this act, it is an affirmative defense that:

35 (1) The matter or performance involved was displayed or otherwise  
36 disseminated to a minor by the minor's parent or legal guardian, for  
37 bona fide purposes; or

1 (2) The matter or performance involved was displayed or otherwise  
2 disseminated to a minor with the written permission of the minor's  
3 parent or legal guardian, for bona fide purposes; or

4 (3) The person made a reasonable good faith attempt to ascertain  
5 the true age of the minor by requiring production of a driver's  
6 license, marriage license, birth certificate, or other governmental or  
7 educational identification card or paper, or copy thereof if supplied  
8 by mail or electronic facsimile when in-person production thereof is  
9 impractical, and not relying solely on the oral allegations or apparent  
10 age of the minor; or

11 (4) If engaged in the commercial distribution of material that is  
12 harmful to minors by electronic or telephonic transmission, access by  
13 persons under eighteen years of age is restricted by requiring use of  
14 a verified credit card, debit account, adult access code, or adult  
15 personal identification number before transmission of the material.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A person who is convicted of violating  
17 section 3 of this act is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

18 (2) Each day that a violation of section 3 of this act occurs or  
19 continues is a separate offense and is punishable as a separate  
20 violation.

21 (3) Every act, thing, or transaction prohibited by section 3 of  
22 this act is a separate offense as to each item, issue, or title  
23 involved and is punishable as such.

24 (4) For the purpose of this section, multiple copies of the same  
25 identical title, monthly issue, volume, and number issue, or other such  
26 identical material are a single offense.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The state of Washington fully occupies  
28 and preempts within the boundaries of the state the entire field of  
29 regulation and sanctions for displaying, selling, furnishing,  
30 presenting, or otherwise distributing matter or performances that are  
31 harmful to minors.

32 (2) Counties, cities, towns, or other municipalities may enact only  
33 those laws and ordinances relating to matter and performances harmful  
34 to minors that are consistent with this chapter.

35 (3) Local laws and ordinances that are inconsistent with, more  
36 restrictive than, or exceed the requirements of this chapter may not be  
37 enacted and are preempted and repealed, regardless of the nature of the

1 code, charter, or home rule status of such county, city, town, or  
2 municipality.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
4 repealed:

5 (1) RCW 9.68.015 (Obscene literature, shows, etc.--Exemptions) and  
6 1959 c 260 s 2;

7 (2) RCW 9.68.050 ("Erotic material"--Definitions) and 1992 c 5 s 1  
8 & 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 13;

9 (3) RCW 9.68.060 ("Erotic material"--Determination by court--  
10 Labeling--Penalties) and 1992 c 5 s 2 & 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 14;

11 (4) RCW 9.68.070 (Prosecution for violation of RCW 9.68.060--  
12 Defense) and 1992 c 5 s 4 & 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 15;

13 (5) RCW 9.68.080 (Unlawful acts) and 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 16;

14 (6) RCW 9.68.090 (Civil liability of wholesaler or wholesaler-  
15 distributor) and 1992 c 5 s 3 & 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 17;

16 (7) RCW 9.68.100 (Exceptions to RCW 9.68.050 through 9.68.120) and  
17 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 18;

18 (8) RCW 9.68.110 (Motion picture operator or projectionist exempt,  
19 when) and 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 19;

20 (9) RCW 9.68.120 (Provisions of RCW 9.68.050 through 9.68.120  
21 exclusive) and 1969 ex.s. c 256 s 20;

22 (10) RCW 9.68.130 ("Sexually explicit material"--Defined--Unlawful  
23 display) and 1975 1st ex.s. c 156 s 1;

24 (11) RCW 9.68A.140 (Definitions) and 1987 c 396 s 1;

25 (12) RCW 9.68A.150 (Allowing minor on premises of live erotic  
26 performance) and 1987 c 396 s 2; and

27 (13) RCW 9.68A.160 (Penalty) and 1987 c 396 s 3.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each  
29 added to chapter 9.68 RCW.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its  
31 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
32 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
33 persons or circumstances is not affected.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
35 preservation of the public peace, health, morals, or safety, or support

1 of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
2 effect immediately.

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