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HOUSE BILL 2363

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Delvin, Hurst, O'Brien, Tokuda, Lovick, Edwards, Kagi, Sommers and Schual-Berke

Read first time 01/16/2002. Referred to Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law.

1 AN ACT Relating to video and computer games depicting violence  
2 against public law enforcement officers; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 9.91 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there has been an  
6 increase in studies showing a correlation between exposure to violent  
7 video and computer games and various forms of hostile and antisocial  
8 behavior. The entertainment software industry's ratings and content  
9 descriptors of video and computer games reflect that some video and  
10 computer games are suitable only for adults due to graphic depictions  
11 of sex and/or violence. Furthermore, some video and computer games  
12 focus on violence specifically against public law enforcement officers  
13 such as police and fire fighters.

14 The legislature has a compelling interest to curb hostile and  
15 antisocial behavior in Washington's youth and to foster respect for  
16 public law enforcement officers.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.91 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) A person who sells, rents, or permits to be sold or rented, any  
2 violent video or computer game to any minor is guilty of a misdemeanor,  
3 punishable under chapter 9.92 RCW.

4 (2) "Minor" means a person under eighteen years of age.

5 (3) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, or  
6 association engaged in the business of selling or renting video or  
7 computer games.

8 (4) "Violent video or computer game" means a video or computer game  
9 that:

10 (a) Contains realistic or photographic-like depictions of  
11 aggressive conflict in which the player kills, injures, or otherwise  
12 causes violence to a human form in the game who is depicted, by dress  
13 or other recognizable symbols, as a public law enforcement officer; and

14 (b) Has been given a rating of "Mature," "For Adults Only," or an  
15 equivalent rating by the video or computer game manufacturer or any  
16 entertainment rating board commonly used by the video and computer game  
17 industry.

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