

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  
No. 2823 Session of  
1998

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, GEORGE, ROBERTS, SHANER, HARHAI, TRELLO,  
CIVERA AND THOMAS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for exposure of children to  
3 violent video games.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 6320. Violent video games.

9 (a) Prohibition.--A person may not do any of the following:

10 (1) Exhibit or permit the exhibition of a video game  
11 containing graphic violence if the exhibition is visible from  
12 an area accessible to the general public.

13 (2) Knowingly permit a minor under the age of 18 to  
14 patronize, visit or loiter in a place of business in which a  
15 video game containing graphic violence is exhibited.

16 (b) Penalty.--

17 (1) A person that violates subsection (a) commits a  
18 misdemeanor of the second degree and shall, upon conviction,

1 be sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000 or to imprisonment for  
2 not more than two years, or both.

3 (2) A person that, after being sentenced under paragraph  
4 (1), violates subsection (a) commits a misdemeanor of the  
5 first degree and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay  
6 a fine of \$10,000 or to imprisonment for not more than five  
7 years, or both.

8 (c) Disposition of fines.--Fines collected under subsection  
9 (b) shall be deposited in the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

10 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
12 subsection:

13 "Community." This Commonwealth.

14 "Graphic violence." The depiction of death or severe injury  
15 in a manner which shocks the conscience of the community and  
16 exceeds the boundaries of what should be tolerated in a  
17 civilized society. The term includes:

18 (1) decapitation;

19 (2) dismemberment;

20 (3) repeated instances of bloodshedding; and

21 (4) grotesque cruelty.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.