

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 P2:12

SENATE
S. No. **1541**

RECEIVED BY: *RV*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2 Section 12 of the Constitution states:

SEC. 12. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

As technology progresses further, more and more recreational activities are being created. Video games in particular, offer a wide range of selection for all kinds of consumer. However, not all video games are meant for children. Many video games present ideas and images that are violent, indecent and corrupt, which may not be properly appreciated by our young consumers.

By strengthening our campaign to properly limit the sale and distribution of video games for mature audience to the people who are old enough to appreciate them, we would be able to safeguard the moral foundation of our society and avoid unnecessary miseducation of your youth.

This bill seeks to establish an age rating system for video games and enjoin the distributors and sellers to operate their video game businesses in accordance with such system.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
acc.

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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1 AN ACT
2 TO REGULATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF VIDEO GAMES
3

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
5 *Congress assembled:*

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Video Game Rating
7 Enforcement Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Definition.* – The purpose of this Act the term –

9 A. “Age-Based Content Rating Label” means, with respect to a video game, a label
10 that describes the age appropriateness of the content of such video game that is
11 determined by the Department of Trade and Industry.

12 B. “Department” means the Department of Trade and Industry

13 SECTION 3. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to ship or otherwise
14 distribute in interstate commerce, or to sell or rent, a video game that does not contain an age-
15 based content rating label, in a clear and conspicuous location on the outside packaging of the
16 video game.

17 It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to sell or rent, or attempt to sell or rent any
18 video game that has an age-based content rating of “Adults Only” (as determined by the
19 Department) to any person under the age of 18.

20 SECTION 4. *Rules for Posting Ratings Information.* – Not later than 180 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Department shall promulgate rules that require all retail
22 establishments engaged in the sale of video games to display, in a clear and conspicuous

1 location, information about the content rating system. Such rules shall prescribe the information
2 required to be displayed concerning the basic age-based content ratings.

3 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* - Any person who shall violate Section 3 of this Act shall upon
4 conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) but not more
5 than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not
6 more than one (1) year, or both upon the discretion of the court.

7 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
8 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

9 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
14 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

15 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

17 Approved,

/apm121208