

HB 390 -- Video Games

Sponsor: Harris (23)

This bill expands the crime of unlawful transactions with a minor by adding provisions regulating the sale or rental of video games. The bill makes it a class A misdemeanor to sell or rent a video game rated M (mature) or AO (adults only) to a person under the age of 17. Video games must contain a rating by the Entertainment Software Rating Board. It is no defense that the defendant believed the person to be 17 years or older unless the defendant examines identification from the person containing both a photograph and proof of age. Retailers must post signs explaining the rating system and provide on-site, informational brochures. Manufacturers and retailers can be fined \$1,000 for failing to properly label a video game and up to \$5,000 for repeated violations. Retailers can be fined in the same amounts for failing to post signs and provide informational brochures.