

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 757

By: Pruitt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to crimes and school safety; prohibiting selling or renting video game with high-violence content to persons under certain age; providing penalties; construing what constitutes separate offense; construing certain violations to apply to storeowners concurrently with employees or agents; defining terms; making storeowners responsible for continuing notification of all employees; prohibiting certain defense; amending Section 1, Chapter 252, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 24-100), which relates to Safe Schools Committees; increasing committee membership; adding certain members; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1993 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or rent to any person under seventeen (17) years of age any video game with a high-violence content or to purchase any video game with a high-violence content on behalf of any person under seventeen (17) years of age. Any person convicted of any violation of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for a first offense. A second conviction shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). A third or subsequent conviction shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Each video game

purchased or rented shall constitute a separate offense for purposes of prosecution of the provisions of this section.

B. The provisions of this section shall apply to retail storeowners concurrently with any employee or agent who is responsible for selling or renting a video game in violation of the provision of this section.

C. 1. For purposes of this section; "Video game with high-violence content" means an electronic game played by means of images on a video screen that has received a rating of "mature" or "adult only" by the Entertainment Software Rating Board.

2. "Retail storeowner" means any business establishment, including, but not limited to, any individual, firm, fiduciary, partnership, corporation, trust or association, however formed.

D. All retail storeowners shall be responsible for continuing notification of all employees or agents of the provisions and penalties of this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 252, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 24-100), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-100. A. Due to the growing concern of safety and the ever constant threat of violence in our children's schools, it is the intent of the Legislature that ~~local~~ schools and families must work together to combat this rising problem. Therefore, no later than October 1, ~~1996~~, and every year thereafter, each public school site shall establish a Safe School Committee to be composed of at least ~~six (6)~~ nine (9) members. The Safe School Committee shall be composed of an equal number of teachers, parents of the children affected and students, and at least one member who shall be employed as a law enforcement officer, one member who shall be employed as a firefighter, and one member who shall represent a local community action organization. The Safe School Committee shall study and make recommendations to the principal regarding:

unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school.

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to vocational and technical schools.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

48-1-1021

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