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HOUSE BILL 1315

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Cairnes, Lovick, Edwards, Rockefeller, Schual-Berke, Kenney, Lantz, Ogden and Gombosky

Read first time 01/21/1999. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to video and video games; and creating new  
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of health shall prepare  
5 and submit a report to the legislature, not later than December 31,  
6 1999, on the most effective ways for parents to control juvenile access  
7 to violent video games.

8 (2) The department shall ensure that the report includes, at a  
9 minimum:

10 (a) A study of the types of violence existing in video games  
11 available on the retail and rental market or over the internet.

12 (b) Recommendations for educating parents about the level of  
13 violence existing in video games available to juveniles, including  
14 identification of types of violent video games that may be harmful to  
15 specific age groups of juveniles;

16 (c) A list of nonviolent video game alternatives for juveniles;

17 (d) Recommendations on the most effective techniques for parents to  
18 allow juveniles access to only age-appropriate video games.

1 (3) In preparing the report, the department shall also include any  
2 current research that links violent television shows, movies, and video  
3 games to acts of aggression and violence by juveniles.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of revenue shall conduct a  
5 study of methods for collecting a user fee on the rental and sales of  
6 unrated video games, video games rated NC-17 and M, and video games  
7 that are even more restrictively rated. All user fees collected shall  
8 be divided evenly, with fifty percent of the user fee being distributed  
9 to the crime victims' compensation program and the remaining fifty  
10 percent being distributed to the department of health for parent  
11 education programming. The department shall investigate alternative  
12 methods of collecting the user fee. The department shall identify and  
13 estimate the costs of collecting the user fee by small, medium, and  
14 large retailers for each alternative. The department shall identify  
15 and estimate the department's costs of collecting the tax for each  
16 alternative. The department shall report its findings to the fiscal  
17 committees of the house of representatives and senate by December 31,  
18 1999.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall implement and  
20 obtain, through a request for proposal process, a definitive scientific  
21 study, in addition to and exceeding the report mandated in section 1 of  
22 this act. The department shall ensure that the study addresses: (1)  
23 Whether, and to what extent, violent video games encourage or increase  
24 aggressive acts by juveniles exposed to those games, with specificity  
25 regarding specific games and types of games, and with specificity  
26 regarding juvenile age groups; and (2) effective methods for parental  
27 control of juvenile access to violent video games and for abatement of  
28 aggressive juvenile behaviors related to violent video games.

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