

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 287

To require ratings label on video games and to prohibit the sales and rentals of adult-rated video games to minors.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2013

Mr. MATHESON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require ratings label on video games and to prohibit the sales and rentals of adult-rated video games to minors.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Video Games Ratings  
5 Enforcement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RATING LABEL REQUIREMENT FOR VIDEO GAMES.**

7 (a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—It shall be unlawful for  
8 any person to ship or otherwise distribute in interstate  
9 commerce, or to sell or rent, a video game that does not  
10 contain a rating label, in a clear and conspicuous location

1 on the outside packaging of the video game, containing  
2 an age-based content rating determined by the Entertain-  
3 ment Software Ratings Board.

4 (b) REQUIREMENT OF RETAILERS TO POST RATINGS  
5 INFORMATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commis-  
7 sion shall promulgate rules requiring all retail establish-  
8 ments engaged in the sale of video games to display, in  
9 a clear and conspicuous location, information about the  
10 content rating system of the Entertainment Software Rat-  
11 ings Board. Such rules shall prescribe the information re-  
12 quired to be displayed concerning the basic age-based con-  
13 tent ratings of such Board.

14 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON SALES AND RENTALS OF ADULT-**  
15 **RATED VIDEO GAMES TO MINORS.**

16 It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or rent,  
17 or attempt to sell or rent—

18 (1) any video game containing a content rating  
19 of “Adults Only” (as determined by the Entertain-  
20 ment Software Ratings Board) to any person under  
21 the age of 18; or

22 (2) any video game containing a content rating  
23 of “Mature” (as determined by such Board) to any  
24 person under the age of 17.

1 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMIS-**  
2 **SION.**

3 (a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—A  
4 violation of sections 2 or 3 shall be treated as a violation  
5 of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice  
6 prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade  
7 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)). The Federal  
8 Trade Commission shall enforce this Act in the same man-  
9 ner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction  
10 as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Fed-  
11 eral Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and  
12 made a part of this Act.

13 (b) PENALTY.—Notwithstanding section 5(m) of the  
14 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(m)), any  
15 person who violates section 2 or 3 of this Act shall be  
16 subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 per vio-  
17 lation.

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