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BILL



ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4703 (Substitute H-1 as reported with amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Tom Pearce

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to require a video game retailer to post in a prominent area within the retail establishment a sign that provided information about a rating system or notified consumers that a rating system was available to aid in the selection of a game. The retailer also would have to make available to consumers, upon request, information explaining the video game rating system. A video game retailer who violated the bill would be responsible for a State civil infraction and could be ordered to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.

Under the bill, "video game retailer" would mean a person who sells or rents video games to the public. "Video game" would mean an object or device that stores recorded data or instructions generated by a person who uses it, and by processing the data or instructions, creates an interactive game capable of being played, viewed, or experienced on or through a computer, gaming system, game console, or other technology. "Rating system" would mean any video game rating system shown on the exterior packaging of a video game when it is sold or rented.

The bill would take effect on December 1, 2005.

Proposed MCL 750.143a

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on State and local government. There are no available data to indicate how many offenders would be found responsible for a civil infraction for violating the proposed section. Public libraries would benefit from any additional civil infraction revenue.

Date Completed: 5-25-05

Fiscal Analyst: Bethany Wicksall