

Video Games Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Amendment of the Video Recordings Act 1984
- 2 Short title and commencement

Schedule – Repeals

A
B I L L

TO

Amend the Video Recordings Act 1984 to extend certain provisions of that Act to video games and to make provision about the labelling of video games.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Amendment of the Video Recordings Act 1984

- (1) The Video Recordings Act 1984 (c. 39) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2 (exempted works), subsection (1)(c) shall cease to have effect.
- (3) In section 8 (requirements as to labelling, etc.), after subsection (2), insert—
 - “(2A) Regulations under this section shall, in particular, make provision—
 - (a) about the size of a label on any spool, case or other thing in which a video game is kept, 5
 - (b) about the prominence to be accorded to the classification in relation to age of the video game on such a label,
 - (c) requiring the inclusion in such a label in relation to a video game to which subsection (2B) applies of such textual information as may be prescribed in the regulations. 10
 - (2B) This subsection applies to video games which, in the opinion of the designated authority, have the potential to cause harm to viewers or, through their behaviour, to society, by the manner in which the work deals with—
 - (a) criminal behaviour;
 - (b) illegal drugs;
 - (c) violent behaviour or incidents;
 - (d) horrific behaviour or incidents; or 15
 - (e) human sexual activity. 20
 - (2C) The provisions of section 4A(2) apply for the purposes of the interpretation of this section as they apply for the purposes of the interpretation of that section.”

- (4) The Schedule (which contains repeals) has effect.

2 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Video Games Act 2005.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of a period of two months beginning with the date on which it is passed.

SCHEDULE

Section 1(4)

REPEALS

| <i>Short title and chapter</i> | <i>Extent of repeal</i> | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Video Recordings Act 1984 (c. 39) | In section 2(1)– (a) the word “or” after paragraph (b), and (b) paragraph (c). | 5 |

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A

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Presented by Keith Vaz.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be printed, 21st March 2005.*

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