
By: Senator Madden

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Video Caption Access Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from distributing, selling, or renting, or
4 attempting to distribute, sell, or rent, certain videos in this State after a certain date
5 unless the videos are open- or closed-captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing
6 individuals; providing a certain penalty for a violation of this Act; defining a certain
7 term; providing for the applicability of this Act; and generally relating to the
8 distribution, sale, and rental of videos.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article - Commercial Law
11 Section 14-1601(b) and (d)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Commercial Law
16 Section 14-1602.2
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article - Commercial Law
21 Section 14-1603
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article - Commercial Law**

27 14-1601.

28 (b) "Video movie" means a videotape or video disc copy of a motion picture film.

2

1 (d) "Official rating" means an official rating of the Motion Picture Association of
2 America.

3 14-1602.2.

4 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "VIDEO" MEANS A RECORDING OF SOUND AND
5 IMAGES ON A VIDEOTAPE OR VIDEO DISC.

6 (2) "VIDEO" INCLUDES A VIDEO MOVIE AS DEFINED IN § 14-1601(B) OF
7 THIS SUBTITLE.

8 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO VIDEOS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN
9 OFFICIAL RATING.

10 (C) AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1997, A PERSON MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR RENT,
11 OR ATTEMPT TO DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR RENT, A VIDEO IN THIS STATE UNLESS THE
12 VIDEO IS OPEN- OR CLOSED-CAPTIONED FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING
13 INDIVIDUALS.

14 (D) ANY PERSON WHO DISTRIBUTES, SELLS, OR RENTS, OR ATTEMPTS TO
15 DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR RENT, A VIDEO IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE
16 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$100 FOR
17 EACH VIOLATION.

18 14-1603.

19 [Any] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE, ANY person who
20 sells or rents, or attempts to sell or rent, a video movie in violation of this subtitle shall be
21 guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$25 for each violation.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 1996.