

S 161

Children's Protection from Violent Programming Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 14, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR 1/16/2003 S1070-1071) (Jan 14, 2003)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/161

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hollings, Ernest F. [D-SC]
Party: Democratic • State: SC • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND] | D · ND | | Jan 14, 2003 |
| Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX] | R · TX | | Jan 14, 2003 |
| Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Jan 14, 2003 |
| Sen. Stevens, Ted [R-AK] | R · AK | | Mar 4, 2004 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jan 15, 2003 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 108 HR 3914 | Related bill | Mar 11, 2004: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. |

Children's Protection from Violent Programming Act - Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to assess the effectiveness of measures to require television broadcasters and multichannel video programming distributors to rate and encode programming that could be blocked by parents by use of a V-chip. Authorizes the FCC, if it finds such measures ineffective, to prohibit the distribution of violent video programming during hours when children are reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to make it unlawful for any person to distribute to the public any violent video programming not blockable by electronic means specifically on the basis of its violent content. Provides for exemptions for: (1) programming (including news programs and sporting events) the distribution of which does not conflict with the objective of protecting children from the negative influences of violent video programming; and (2) premium and pay-per-view direct-to-home satellite programming.

Directs the FCC to impose a forfeiture penalty for violations and to revoke a broadcasting or distribution license of a repeat violator.

Requires the FCC to study and report to specified committees on the marketing to children of violent content by the motion picture, music recording, and computer and video game industries.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 14, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 14, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S304)
- **Jan 14, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR 1/16/2003 S1070-1071)