

CHAPTER 190

AN ACT

Prohibiting the displaying, selling, offering for sale, distributing, lending or giving away to any person or to any firm, corporation, or other party of any horror comic book, crime comic book, sexually indecent comic book, or comic book portraying deeds of brutality and violence; providing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this Act.

(H. B. 95)

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. Definitions.

(a) "Comic Book" refers to any narrative, story, tale, romance or account of events or happenings, fictional, factual or historical in which the successive steps in the development of the action or plot are pictorially or graphically illustrated by drawings or photographs and in which the legend, narrative or dialogue is printed adjacent to or on the pictorial illustration, whether or not in balloons proceeding out of the mouths of the characters portrayed. This definition includes all publications of the nature described, regardless of whether they partake of the elements of comedy or humor.

(b) A "Horror Comic Book" is a comic book, as hereinbefore described, the theme or plot of which is devoted primarily or in substantial part to matter which is gruesome, debasing, monstrous, vile, demonic, ghoulish, weird, horrible, vicious, depraved, inhuman or oth-

erwise calculated to inspire in readers feelings of horror, fear, revulsion, disgust or morbid curiosity.

(c) A "Crime Comic Book" is a comic book, as hereinbefore described, the theme or plot of which is devoted primarily or in substantial part to the portrayal of the planning and/or commission of criminal deeds such as murders, rapes, armed robberies, burglaries, thefts, kidnapings, arsons, the peddling, sale or use of narcotics or other felonies or conspiracies or attempts to commit such felonies.

(d) A "Sexually Indecent Comic Book" is a comic book, as hereinbefore described, the theme or plot of which is devoted primarily or in substantial part to sexually indecent subject matter such as adultery, homo-sexuality, sadism, masochism or other perversions or in which male and female characters are depicted in lewd, lascivious or suggestive amorous embraces or in which male or female characters are scantily or indecently clad or in which the breasts of female char-

acters or the genital organs of male or female characters are exposed or partially exposed.

(e) A "Comic Book portraying deeds of brutality and violence" is a comic book, as hereinbefore described, the theme or plot of which is devoted primarily or in substantial part to deeds or acts or brutality or violence such as assaults, cuttings, stabbings, beatings, sluggings, floggings, eye-gougings, brutal kickings, burnings, dismemberments and other reprehensible assaults and batteries on the person.

Section 2. **Offenses.**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or other party knowingly to display, sell, offer for sale, distribute, lend or give away or otherwise make available to any person, or to any firm, corporation or other party any horror comic book, crime comic book, sexually indecent comic book, or comic book portraying deeds of brutality and violence, as defined in Section 1 hereof.

Section 3. **Penalties.**

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300.00, by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day during which a violation continues, or violations continue, shall constitute an offense.

Section 4. **Enforcement.**

The governing body of each municipality may provide by ordinance for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. **Severability.**

If any portion or part of this Act be for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Act, but such remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Approved March 28, 1955

CHAPTER 191

AN ACT

Relating to log branding, amending Secs. 1 and 3 of Chap. 51, SLA 1953; and setting an effective date.

(S. B. 133)