

Los Angeles voters mandate condom use on porn sets

November 7 2012

(AP)—Los Angeles County voters have approved a measure requiring porn performers to wear condoms while filming sex scenes, prompting a pledge by the adult entertainment industry to sue to overturn the measure.

With 100 percent of the county's precincts reporting, Measure B passed 56 percent to 44 percent in Tuesday's election.

The measure requires adult film producers to apply for a permit from the county Department of Public Health to shoot sex scenes. Permit fees will finance periodic inspections of film sets to enforce compliance.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which sponsored the initiative, says the measure will help safeguard the public, as well as porn workers, from sexually transmitted infections.

But the adult film industry, which is largely centered in the San Fernando Valley in suburban Los Angeles, says the requirement is unnecessary since the industry already polices itself by requiring performers to undergo monthly tests for HIV and other infections.

The industry also says the requirement would damage it since porn viewers will not watch sex scenes with condoms, and force adult film producers to relocate to where they can make movies that will sell.

On Wednesday, the Free Speech Coalition, a trade group representing

the [adult entertainment industry](#), said it plans to file a lawsuit to overturn the [condom](#) requirement on constitutional grounds.

In a letter sent to the county Board of Supervisors, the industry also requested that it be involved in discussions as to how the county will implement the requirements. It will also explore moves to neighboring states as soon as possible, the coalition said.

Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, said he is not fazed by threats of a lawsuit or of relocation. The issue is one of public health and safety for workers who run a [high risk](#) for sexually transmitted illnesses, he said.

The industry argument did not convince voters, he said. "There was a very high degree of awareness about this proposition," he said. "Voters were educated about it."

About 200 companies produce adult films in Los Angeles. A two-year health permit would cost about \$11,000, comparable to permits for tattoo and massage parlors, Weinstein said.

"We don't want one more person to get HIV," he said.

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