

April 6, 2007

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 80

The Honorable Ben D. Altamirano
President Pro Tempore
New Mexico Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 17, as amended, which was enacted during the Forty-Eighth Legislature, First Session, 2007.

Senate Bill 17 in its amended form refers to both "certificate of fetal death" and "certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth." The term "stillbirth" is not used by statistical health agencies. Rather, "fetal death" is used. This bill creates a new category of "births" in New Mexico and authorizes the issuance of a formal state certificate for "birth resulting in stillbirth."

The amended bill would require production of two documents for a single event – both a certificate of fetal death and a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. Having two documents for a single vital event can lead to confusion and potential fraud, and is not sound policy.

Accordingly, signature of this bill is not appropriate at this time

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bill Richardson
Governor

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RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

Date: _____ 2007

by:

Chief Clerk of the Senate

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

Date: _____ 2007

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Secretary of State