



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**

*Governor*

For immediate release  
11/04/03

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## **Governor Bill Richardson signs “Marissa’s Law”**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today signed “Marissa’s Law,” enacting tough new legislation aimed at protecting New Mexicans from sexual predators.

“I want to thank everybody for so patiently waiting for Marissa’s Law to become reality,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Today, Marissa’s family -- and all families in the state – can be assured that New Mexico is aggressively protecting them against sexual predators.

“I’ll say it again -- New Mexico will no longer be known as a haven for sexual predators. Our message to sex offenders outside New Mexico is clear -- You are not welcome here.”

House Bill 2 was proposed by Governor Richardson as a results-oriented approach to stem the growing tide of sexual crimes. Representative Al Park of Albuquerque and Representative Tom Swisstack of Rio Rancho sponsored the bill in the Legislature.

The bill does several things, including:

- Requires a mandatory minimum sentence for criminal sexual penetration in the second-degree.
- Creates a Sex Offender Management Board.
- Extends parole for sex offenders.
- Forces sex offenders to stay on probation longer.
- Creates a new class of crimes for a sex offense against a child.
- Increase penalties for kidnapping of a child involving a sexual offense.

“This is landmark legislation, and helps form the foundation for a larger crackdown on crime,” Governor Richardson said, referring to stronger DWI laws, more crime labs and updated pay and equipment for State Police enacted during the 2003 legislative session.

Governor Richardson said he will continue to develop his anti-crime package to:

- Continuing the assault on DWI
- Deal with the exploding methamphetamine problem
- Open the Office of Victims Assistance
- Revamp how domestic violence is handled in New Mexico through the First Lady’s Domestic Violence Advisory Board