



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For immediate release
10/30/03

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
505.476.2217

Governor Bill Richardson's Sexual Predator Package passes

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson won a major victory with unanimous Senate passage of his Sexual Predator package. The New Mexico Senate voted 38-0 today to pass the Governor's bill. The state House of Representatives voted 67-0 Wednesday to pass the bill Wednesday. The House is expected to concur with a technical amendment added to the bill in the Senate.

"This is a historic day for all New Mexicans – for our children, for our communities and neighborhoods. Now New Mexico will have strong and tough sexual predator laws. Now, we will never be called a haven for sexual offenders again.

"I want to dedicate the passage of this landmark legislation to all of the victims and their families. And I hope that in the future, we can all say we've done everything we can to prevent future tragedies.

"I want to commend the House and the Senate for acting in a bipartisan way, setting aside politics for the good of the people of New Mexico.

"I have a simple and clear message for sexual offenders outside of New Mexico. 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.

"My hope is that these bold ideas will help us protect New Mexicans – especially young children – who are victimized by sexual predators," Governor Bill Richardson said. "By passing mandatory minimum sentences for



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sexual predators, we can keep them off the streets and prevent judges from releasing dangerous criminals into our neighborhoods.”

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