



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

Governor Bill Richardson Applauds Tougher DWI Laws Passed Today by Legislature

For immediate release
2/18/04

Contact: Billy Sparks
505.476.2299

Santa Fe - Governor Bill Richardson today applauded the passage of bills that dramatically increase the penalties for DWI and alcohol related offenses.

“Let there be no mistake- if you hurt or kill someone driving drunk, or if you provide alcohol to someone under 21, the full force of New Mexico law will land on you,” said Governor Richardson.

These bills passed today significantly increase the penalties for DWI offenses, including:

- Longer sentences for DWI offenders who kill or injure,
- Mandatory jail time for DWI offenders who violate the terms of their probation,
- Mandatory alcohol and drug screening, and treatment programs for multiple offenders,
- Convictions in tribal jurisdictions will now count as prior offenses in state court.

The new laws officially lower the legal blood alcohol limit for commercial drivers to .04.

The crime of providing alcohol to minors will be prosecuted as a fourth degree felony under liquor control laws. Also, offenders can now be charged for providing alcohol to people between the ages of 18 and 21 as a fourth degree felony.

“No more warnings, no more probation- DWI and alcohol related crimes will be prosecuted,” added the Governor. “While we’re making progress, we’re still not done. I’ll keep raising the stakes for DWI until it is no longer a problem in New Mexico.”

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