



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Contact: Pahl Shipley
505.476.2202

Governor Bill Richardson Signs Bills Promoting Organ Donation

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today signed two bills designed to increase the number of organ donations in New Mexico. The Governor has also declared April as "Donate Life Month."

"Donating an organ is one of the most selfless acts a person can do for someone else," Governor Richardson said. "Through this gift someone has a chance at life - a chance that wouldn't be there without someone else's generosity. Both these bills encourage people to consider organ donation."

The Governor signed House Bill 105, sponsored by Rep. Al Park, which provides a tax deduction for expenses related to donating a human organ to another person. Such expenses can include items like lost wages, and travel and lodging. A taxpayer's dependent can also be eligible for the deduction, which cannot exceed \$10,000.

In addition he signed Senate Bill 284, sponsored by Sen. Dede Feldman, which creates a special license plate promoting awareness about organ donation. The license plate is available for a one-time fee of \$10 plus regular registration fees.