



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Signs DWI Interlock Bills

SANTA FE -- With a stroke of a pen, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today made it mandatory for all DWI offenders to have an ignition interlock device installed on the vehicles they drive.

“In the past two years, we’ve made significant progress to put real teeth in our DWI laws,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “The message is clear: ‘You drink, you drive, you lose.’”

“But we can’t just rely on tougher laws and the threat of longer prison sentences for repeat offenders. We have to take advantage of technology to prevent people from getting behind the wheel when they’ve had too much to drink,” Governor Richardson said.

The Governor signed three bills that deal specifically with using interlock devices to combat the state’s DWI problem.

“We will never again be criticized for doing too little about DWI. New Mexico now has the most comprehensive Ignition Interlock law in the world,” Governor Richardson said.

Under **House Bill 282**, sponsored by Rep. W. Ken Martinez, and **Senate Bill 109**, sponsored by Sen. Kent Cravens, interlock devices that prevent a vehicle from being

started if the driver's blood alcohol content is greater than 0.025, will be required for anyone convicted of DWI.

The length of time the device must be kept in place differs with the offense. For a first offense, the device must be used for one year; second offense, two years; third offense, three years; and a fourth offense, the offender must use the device for the rest of his life. However, after five years, a fourth time offender can petition the court for a hearing on having the interlock device removed.

SB 109 also applies to juveniles DWI offenders, requiring the use of an interlock device for one year upon a DWI conviction; takes drivers' licenses away from juvenile offenders for a longer period of time; and mandates community service for all offenders.

Senate Bill 516, sponsored by Sen. Richard Martinez, expands the types of interlock devices the state can use under the previous two bills, making allowance for expanding technologies.