



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
April 7, 2005

Contact: Billy Sparks
505-476-2299

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Signs Historic ATV Legislation

SANTA FE -- Governor Richardson signed SB 252 today, sponsored by Senator Dede Feldman to better protect New Mexico's kids by providing for stricter safety standards for off-highway vehicles.

"Before the session began, I asked the legislature to approve strong ATV legislation to better protect our kids," said Governor Richardson. "Today, we are keeping our promise. This bill is designed to help prevent the tragedies that are becoming all too commonplace in our state."

The Off-Highway safety Act not only increases the safety of those most vulnerable, but it also increases opportunities available to the off-highway vehicle community.

Its safety measures include compulsory helmets, eye protection, training, and in some cases adult supervision for those under the age of eighteen. Experience in other states has demonstrated that these measures dramatically lower incidences of injury and death.

Also, the bill increases the opportunity for safer, responsible OHV riding. The fees in this bill will go to creating dedicated off-highway vehicle facilities in rural areas around the state, and expand economic development opportunities in needy counties.

#30#