



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Signs bills to strengthen sex offender registration

Governor also signs bill to outlaw the distribution of "date rape" drugs

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson signed HB 165, sponsored by Representative Hector Balderas today to strengthen New Mexico's Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

"With the action we are taking today, New Mexico will never be a haven for sex offenders," said Governor Bill Richardson. "Our enforcement will be tougher, our communities will have more timely and accurate information and most important, our children will be safer."

In the fall of 2003, during The Special Session dedicated to sex offense issues, Governor Richardson created the Sexual Predator Act and the Sex Offender Management Board, an entity composed of diverse experts in this field to address issues such as strengthening our Sex Offender Act.

"New Mexico will now have a tough and realistic sex offender tracking system with lifetime registration every 90 days for the worst offenders. We've also added crimes to the registration list, we have increased penalties to put real teeth in the enforcement and we have added notification of employers, a provision which we call Marissa's Law,

named after Marissa Mathy-Zvaifler the young woman who was killed in 2003 by a convicted sex offender,” said Governor Richardson.

By signing this law New Mexico will be in compliance with federal law and allowing New Mexico to obtain its full share of federal grant monies. This will be approximately 350 thousand dollars for this grant cycle.

Governor Richardson also signed HB 713, sponsored by Representative Eric Youngberg to outlaw the distribution of “date rape” drugs and protect innocent victims of an insidious sexual assault.

“By signing this law our statutes will be clear... giving one of these drugs to an individual without their knowledge for the purpose of committing a sex crime is now a third degree felony,” said Governor Richardson. “This type of predatory criminal activity has spread quickly across the country and New Mexico is no exception.”

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