



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Proposes Anti-Corruption, Campaign Reporting Initiatives

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today outlined a comprehensive anti-corruption package that will close legal loopholes and toughen ethical laws. The Governor will also propose campaign reporting reforms that are designed to make campaign contributions more transparent.

“I am most concerned about preventing the type of unethical and illegal behavior that led to the corruption in the Treasurer’s Office,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “The thrust of this package is designed to provide more thorough oversight of State Treasurer investments.”

Governor Richardson, during the legislative session that begins next week, will propose the following anti-corruption and campaign-reporting reforms:

Treasurer’s Office Reforms

1. Require that the Governor appoint a public member with investment experience to the State Board of Finance
2. Give the State Board of Finance the authority to adopt guidelines and oversight of State Treasurer investments. The Board would require more transparency of state investments, increased reporting, and oversight of the State Treasurer’s relationships with investment advisors and broker/dealers.
3. Establish the State Treasurer’s Investment Committee in law to include two Board of Finance members and two public members with investment experience.
4. Enhanced campaign contribution reporting requirements and financial relationship disclosures for the State Treasurer and applicable staff.
5. Prohibit campaign contributions and any other thing of value to the State Treasurer and applicable staff from any person (and their organization) who is a prospective or current contractor with the State Treasurer.

Contracting Process

1. Ban campaign contributions and any other thing of value from prospective contractors to applicable elected officials and employees during contracting process.
2. Disclosure of campaign contributions by prospective contractors.

Enhanced Penalties

1. Public officers will face stiffer penalties for corrupt conduct. The bill allows imprisonment to be increased by one year upon a finding that: 1) The offender is a public official and 2) The felony relates to, arises out of, or is in connection with the holding of the public office.
2. Potential loss of retirement benefits upon felony conviction.

Campaign Reporting Act

1. Increased reporting in non-election years from once a year to twice a year (May and November).
2. Require the reporting of employers for all donors.
3. Require the reporting of cumulative totals of contributions received from a person or an entity making a donation.
4. Strengthen the investigatory and audit powers of the Secretary of State by giving the Secretary power to subpoena records and provide a penalty for failure to cooperate with the SOS investigation.
5. Require the Secretary of State to post reports on-line under a set timeframe (within 10 days of verification of the report) and to post on-line as delinquent those who fail to file appropriately.
6. Expressly require reporting of independent expenditures made by "527" groups and individuals who are advocating the election or defeat of a candidate.
7. Prohibit donations in the form of cash in excess of \$100.

Governmental Conduct Act

1. Removes Governor's authority to exempt an employee/officer from taking an official act affecting his financial interest.
2. Prohibits disclosure by an employee/officer of confidential info
3. Requires competitive bidding for contracts with employees, legislator or relative
4. Prohibits an applicant to help in drafting of an RFP
5. No sale of goods or services by public official to the agency employed with
6. No use of official position to pressure or coerce employees on political matters. No political activity with state resources.
7. Mandatory disclosure of outside employment for state employees/officers
8. No use of state funds to defend against violations of this law.