



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson's Tough Anti-Meth Measures Take Effect July 1

Family Opportunity Accounts Also Effective July 1

SANTA FE – On July 1, 2006 two key pieces of Governor Bill Richardson's Year of the Child Keeping Kids Safe agenda will come into effect. These laws will give the state new tools to block access to meth and crack down on meth dealers.

"These efforts give law enforcement officers new, stronger tools to crack down on meth in New Mexico," said Governor Richardson. "Along with the nearly \$800,000 we are spending on meth treatment this year, these laws show that New Mexico is committed to throwing the book at those who manufacture and deal meth."

Gov. Richardson signed House Bill 211 in March. This law helps limit access to one of the major building blocks to "cook" meth by making pseudoephedrine - a common ingredient in cold medicine - a controlled substance that can be legally distributed only by a licensed pharmacist.

Gov. Richardson also signed House Bill 179 in March, which increases penalties on meth dealers. This law increases the penalty for the sale of meth or possession of meth with the intent to sell. Meth will now carry the same penalties that are applied to heroin and cocaine dealers.

These new laws work in concert with the other anti-meth measures the Richardson Administration has taken to make life tougher for meth dealers. This includes amending the Drug Precursor Act, to give the state Board of Pharmacy the authority to regulate over the counter drugs and chemicals used to make meth and bills making it easier to charge

an offender with child abuse if a child is negligently or intentionally placed in an environment where there are the chemicals and equipment used to produce meth.

In addition to several other bills, HB 112 Family Opportunity Accounts, championed by Speaker Ben Lujan, also take effect on July 1. Family Opportunity Accounts benefit working, low-income families who open a bank account, place regular savings into that account and successfully complete a financial literacy course.

“This innovative, bipartisan initiative encourages working New Mexicans to save money and help themselves,” said Governor Richardson. “This effort will boost home ownership and educational opportunities.”

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