



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos 505.476.2217

Governor Bill Richardson Signs Legislation that Blocks Access to Methamphetamine and Cracks down on Methamphetamine Dealers

LAS CRUCES - Gov. Bill Richardson today signed two bills that give the state new tools to block access to meth and crack down on meth dealers.

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

"Today New Mexico joins more than 30 states that have restricted the sale of cold medicines used to make methamphetamine," Gov. Bill Richardson said. "This legislation supports my Keeping Kids Safe agenda during this Year of the Child."

Gov. Richardson also signed House Bill 179, which increases penalties on meth dealers. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Cervantes, 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 bills - along with the nearly \$800,000 we are spending on meth treatment - show that New Mexico is committed to cracking down on those who manufacture and deal meth," Gov. Bill Richardson said.

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