



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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## **Governor Bill Richardson Praises Passage of Increased Penalties for Domestic Violence Bill**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today applauded the passage of a bill that increases penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders. The Senate agreed this morning to changes the House made to SB 68. The bill now heads to Governor Richardson, who will sign it.

“This bill is a huge step forward in our fight against domestic violence in New Mexico,” Governor Richardson said. “We’re sending a clear message to offenders that we take their crimes seriously and that they will not be tolerated.”

SB 68 makes the third conviction of battery against a household member or aggravated battery against a household member a fourth degree felony. A fourth or subsequent conviction would result in a third degree felony. Currently, repeat convictions on both charges are only considered misdemeanors in the State of New Mexico.

First Lady Barbara Richardson, the state’s leading anti-domestic violence advocate, has been instrumental in seeking the increased penalties.

“We have been pushing this initiative for several years,” First Lady Barbara Richardson said. “We never gave up because we knew there were victims who were counting on us and who deserve this level of protection,”

“This bill compliments our efforts regarding treatment over the last few sessions,” said Sen. Rod Adair (R-Roswell), the bill’s sponsor. “It places an appropriately stern sentence on offenders who don’t get the message.”

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