

April 5, 2001

**SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 55**

The Honorable Richard Romero and  
Members of the Senate  
Executive-Legislative Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 131, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill requires gun merchants to provide either trigger locks or lockboxes when they sell a firearm. Although this country is taking a hard look at similar gun safety measures, no states in the Southwest have mandated the use or sale of trigger locks by firearms dealers. Moreover, nothing in this law assures New Mexico that supplying trigger locks will result in increased gun safety, since locks and lockboxes are easily discarded. Finally, this bill could create a hardship on small gun merchants in this state who would lose sales to surrounding states. Only new guns would be required to have the trigger locks at purchase and pawn shops would be excluded.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the Senate Sem55sb131v