

March 7, 2018

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 148

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and  
Members of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

I have this day SIGNED HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 19, 215, 217, 266 & 271, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, Second Session, 2018, except for the following part or parts, items or items, which I have vetoed pursuant to Article IV, Section 22 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico:

Beginning on page 57, I have vetoed all of lines 5 through 25, on page 58, I have vetoed all of lines 1 through 25, and on page 59, I have vetoed all of lines 1 through 24;

Beginning on page 62, I have vetoed all of lines 12 through 25, and on page 63, I have vetoed all of lines 1 through 16;

On page 77, I have vetoed all of line 15; and

On page 79, I have vetoed all of lines 8 through 17.

Since taking office, I have made it one of my top priorities to address crime throughout this state. I have pushed the Legislature to enact tougher penalties for the criminals, who abuse the most innocent among us, our children; to crack down on repeat offenders; and to make New Mexico a safe place to do business and raise a family. However, the Legislature has repeatedly blocked any attempt to increase penalties and address crime in a meaningful way.

As we began the 2018 legislative session, I was hopeful that this year—in the wake of a year where we saw a record number of homicides in Albuquerque, and where violent and property crimes have continued to plague communities throughout our State—the Legislature would finally take action. Unfortunately, the legislature preferred to cling to

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the status quo. I am extremely disappointed that in response to a statewide crisis of violent crime, the Legislature responded by passing a bill that is more concerned with decreasing penalties and eliminating valuable enforcement mechanisms than addressing the significant problems the people elected them to resolve.

Of particular concern, this bill struck the Motor Vehicle Division's ("MVD") authority to suspend driver's licenses for failure to appear in court or failure to pay a penalty assessment. Striking this language from the statute removes any enforcement authority MVD has for people that fail to appear in court or pay citations issued by law enforcement or MVD. Similarly, the bill significantly reduced the penalty for a person who fails to appear in court as promised upon the issuance of a citation.

Finally, this bill reduces the penalty for a person who disregards the law and drives on a suspended license, including those that have had their license suspended for failure to pay child support.

Despite several remaining public safety concerns surrounding decreased penalties and the flawed attempt to pass a public safety initiative, I have signed this bill in order to take a step in the right direction: to hold violent felons accountable when they disregard the law and ensure that convicted drunk drivers can demonstrate the ability to make responsible decisions after consuming alcohol—to not get behind the wheel when they are drunk.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House