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(S.D.)-S.D. Panel Passes One Human Trafficking Bill, Kills Two



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 02/21/2014 02:34 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - The South Dakota House Judiciary Committee has reviewed three bills on human trafficking in an emotional hearing Friday.

A trafficking victim drew the sympathy of many in the room, including legislators and opponents to the bills.

The panel gave unanimous support for one bill to allow victims to seek financial compensation from their perpetrators.

The panel rejected two other bills.

One would have required a plan to assist victims and educate the public about human trafficking. The state's Department of Social Services testified that the state already provides those services.

Another bill would have allowed the court to clear human trafficking victims of convictions for crimes they committed as a result of their trafficking, such as prostitution. Opponents say there are other policies in place to pardon these victims.