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(Neb)-Brewer Bill On Missing NA Women Advances To Floor

By: John Axtell Posted at: 01/31/2019 12:39 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - 43rd District State Senator Tom Brewer's bill requiring better tracking of cases involving missing Native American women advanced out of the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous 7-0 Wednesday, sending it on send to the full Legislature.

The bill would require the Nebraska State Patrol to collect data on missing Native American women and organize meetings with law enforcement agencies, tribes and the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs. The patrol would report all of its findings to lawmakers by June 1 of next year.

Brewer, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe from Gordon, says communication failures among local, state and federal agencies can lead such cases to fall through the cracks.

Recent national studies have found that a disproportionately large number of Native American women have been the victims of violence.