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**(SD)-Random Drug Tests For Lawmakers Bill Advances**

By: John Axtell Posted at: 01/31/2019 11:52 PM

PIERRE, S.D.(AP) - The South Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee has advanced a bill to impose random drug testing on state legislators, but instead of going to the floor after the 4-1 vote it was later sent to another committee.

Republican Senator Stace Nelson says he sponsored the bill because real leaders lead from the front by setting an example.

The bill requires the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation to set up a random drug test for 3 to 10 legislators once weekly during the legislative session.

If a test shows evidence of drug use, the DCI would provide the results to the presiding officer of that lawmaker's chamber for referral to a special disciplinary committee.

Some legislative leaders have said they oppose the bill with House Majority Whip Jon Hansen saying while he would be clean, he still thinks it's bad policy.