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(S.D.)-State Lawmakers Approve Pregnancy Help Center Rules



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/05/2014 08:32 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - The South Dakota Legislature has approved a measure preventing pregnancy help centers from lining up adoptions.

The Senate voted 26-9 to pass a measure that has already been approved by the House. It will become law if signed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

A 2011 law requires women seeking abortions to get counseling at pregnancy help centers, which discourage abortions, before they can terminate a pregnancy. The counseling requirement has not taken effect because it is still being challenged in federal court.

Supporters of the bill say pregnancy help centers should not be involved in adoptions because they should be neutral. Opponents say the Legislature should not change laws being challenged in court.

Lawmakers have not said whether they believe the measure will help defend the counseling requirement in court.