

(S.D.)- Texting While Driving Ban Dies In House Committee

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PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - A South Dakota House committee has killed a bill that would have banned texting while driving despite sometimes-tearful testimony from people whose loved ones have been killed in texting-related wrecks.

The Judiciary Committee voted 8-5 to postpone the matter to the 41st Day, where bills are sent to die as there is no 41st day in the legislative session.

Justin Iburg was among those who testified in favor of the bill. He was convicted of a September 2010 wreck near Mitchell that killed father of two Jon Christensen. Christensen's widow also testified in favor of the ban.

Opponents on the committee said there isn't enough evidence proving that bans effectively lower crash rates.

Four South Dakota cities in the past year have imposed bans on texting while driving.