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**House passes bill to improve investigations of missing people**

Posted May 22, 2007  
3:40 PM

(Hartford-AP) \_ The state House of Representatives has unanimously approved a bill that would improve standards for how police investigate missing person cases.

The legislation is in response to the case of Billy Smolinski, a 31-year-old Waterbury resident who disappeared in 2004 and has yet to be found.

Smolinski's family says police made them wait three days to report his disappearance, and authorities lost or misplaced Billy Smolinski's DNA samples three times. His relatives also say they had to pressure police to fingerprint his truck.

The House approved the bill 148-0 and sent it to the Senate.

Representative Vickie Nardello of Prospect urged the House to approve the bill, saying no one should have to go through what the Smolinski family went through. The legislation would require the state's Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop guidelines by next January for how police accept missing persons reports and what information they should provide to victims' families.

Several other states are considering similar laws.

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