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Ritter gets bill requiring DNA tests on arrest

Tipton and others argued that if DNA testing had been used in other cases, a number of women who were later murdered would still be alive today.

By The Denver Post

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A bill that supporters say will save "our daughters' and our wives' " lives is on the way to Gov. Bill Ritter's desk after lawmakers approved taking DNA samples upon arrest.

Senate Bill 241 has been dubbed "Katie's Law" and is named for the New Mexico college student whose murder spurred her parents to push for DNA testing upon arrest.

The bill was amended to allow police to take DNA tests upon arrest but for the sample not to be processed unless a person is charged. The sample will be destroyed if no charges are filed.

"We did a good thing today," said Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez, after the House passed his bill. "We helped protect that population out there called our daughters and our wives."

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