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Ks Lawmakers Consider Loosening Liquor Laws

(AP) - A Kansas House committee is preparing to consider a proposal to phase in sales of strong beer, wine and liquor at grocery and convenience stores.

The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee's debate Thursday represents a key test for backers of the bill. Committee approval would send it to the House for debate.

The measure allows liquor store owners to sell their licenses to other retailers in the same county, starting in July 2015.

Kansas currently permits groceries and convenience stores to sell only weak beer. The bill would let them start selling strong beer in July 2017, wine in July 2020 and liquor in July 2024.

Supporters said Wednesday the bill would promote competition and benefit consumers. Liquor store owners fear being pushed out of business.