

KS lawmakers reject lower penalties on pot possession

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Kansas legislators aren't ready to declare that marijuana possession never should be a felony.**

**A House committee rejected proposals Monday to lower penalties for third-time offenders and to release others from prison.**

**The Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee voted 7-4 against a bill to make possessing marijuana a misdemeanor, no matter how many times someone was convicted.**

**Current Kansas law says a third conviction is a felony punishable by up to 14 months in prison, though offenders often receive probation.**

**The bill also initially said offenders now in prison for marijuana possession would be released, but the committee removed that provision.**

Associated Press