



Great Lakes Gun Rights

It's a **RIGHT**, not a *privilege!*

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. Thank you for allowing us to be heard. I am here on behalf of the members and supporters of Great Lakes Gun Rights, urging a yes vote for House Bills 5364-5367.

While this is not our preferred version of this legislation which is commonly known as Constitutional Carry, this bill package will still bring much needed change to Michigan law.

Under existing Michigan law a CPL is not needed to carry a pistol. The catch or requirement for this is that the pistol is carried unconcealed. Concealment requires a permit. Not carry, carry can be done by anyone legally able to possess a pistol. The bills under discussion would allow concealed or unconcealed carry, and eliminate the permit requirement for concealed carry.

Not only does concealment require a permit under current law, but a violation is harshly and severely punished. It is a crime punishable by up to five years incarceration to carry a concealed pistol without a permit. This is found in Michigan Penal Code section 750.227.

Few states punish unlawful carry of a firearm as harshly as Michigan. Unlawful carry of a concealed firearm, in itself, is a victimless crime. No other person is harmed by such carry.

Michigan law punishes crimes with a victim less harshly than unlawful carry. For example, I learned from my father who has spent 35+ years in law enforcement that an assault on a peace officer that requires medical treatment of the officer is punished less severely. That is found at Michigan Penal Code section 750.81d(2).

It is irrational to punish concealed carry as a felony with a penalty of up to five years incarceration, particularly when crimes with an actual injured victim carry less punishment.

It is irrational to require a permit with the attendant expense and hassle, when unconcealed carry is unregulated. The differentiation between concealed and unconcealed carry is unwarranted.

The legislation before you will correct this, by permitting concealed carry under the same rules and requirements as existing law, but eliminating the requirement for a permit.

Thank you for your time.

-Brenden Boudreau, Executive Director of Great Lakes Gun Rights