

Concealed Carry Continues to Evolve

Four years ago the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association supported concealed carry for Ohioans and the Sheriffs accepted the responsibility of the licensing procedure. Since the inception more than 100,000 licenses have been issued and in 2008 nearly half of those are due for renewal.

Complex legislation has been regularly introduced in attempts to cleanup and clearly define many confusing laws and procedures relating to concealed carry. Most recently SB-184 which takes effect September 8, 2008, clearly defines a loaded weapon and how they may be transported in a motor vehicle. Possession of concealed weapons in one's own home does not require licensing and specifies return of seized weapons if ordered by a court. As well as clarifying self defense and duty to retreat.

Pertaining to concealed carry the bill makes numerous changes to existing statutes allowing concealed carry in rest areas, grocery stores and with-in school safety zones, with certain restrictions. In a motor vehicle a licensee may carry a loaded firearm in a unlocked glove compartment or console. While it is still required to notify an officer should you have a concealed carry license, at the time of a traffic stop, the penalty for failing to make notification has been reduced if the officer has knowledge the person is a concealed carry licensee. The requirement of written testing for re-qualification has been replaced with a practical range exercise. Sealed or expunged records may no longer be considered during the background process as disqualifying offenses.

This is only a brief summary of some changes included in SB-184. It is strongly recommended you review this bill and existing statutes to fully understand Ohio's weapon laws. We continue to work with organizations and legislators to ensure citizen rights while maintaining a practical and safe environment for all Ohio citizens.

Sheriff Jim Sabin, Chairman
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Concealed Carry Committee