

Prior to 2001, there were no Pistol Free Zones (PFZ's) in Michigan. If you had a General or Business and Banking permit, you could carry a concealed pistol pretty much anywhere. With the passage of PA 381, Michigan's Shall Issue carry law, restrictions were put in place against carrying a firearm in certain locations unless one was exempt by statute. At the same time, a minimum training requirement was enacted, requiring for the first time that anyone receiving a license to carry a concealed pistol had to pass an 8 hour class and actually fire a pistol before a training certificate was issued. While Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL) numbers have continued to increase, license holders have also continued to prove themselves to be among the most law abiding and responsible individuals. Yet, only one PFZ has been removed in the 14 years since Shall Issue became law – in 2003 the restriction against CPL holders carrying in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages was lifted.

Senate Bill 442 has been introduced to attempt to extend the exemption to carry in PFZ's to all CPL holders who request the exemption. At the same time, it would pass a new restriction against openly carrying a pistol in the same locations. Open Carry with a CPL in the PFZ's is currently permitted, the only legal method for non law enforcement personnel to possess a firearm in these places.

Shooters Alliance for Firearm Rights is opposed to SB 442 as introduced. Most permit holders would prefer to concealed carry if the option was available to them. At the same time Open Carry is a legal method of carrying a pistol. We would propose that the section on prohibiting Open Carry in the current Pistol Free Zones be removed from the Bill. While we would like to see all PFZ's eliminated and will continue to advocate for that outcome we are open to the compromise of allowing any CPL holder to request the exemption to the Pistol Free Zones. Further we would suggest that this exemption be given with no additional requirements, and that the maximum fee which can be levied for the exemption would be the \$10 already in statute for receiving a duplicate license. Also, no additional fee may be required if the exemption is requested at issuance or renewal.

This proposal would still require one to have undergone the background check and training that all CPL holders undergo in order to carry a pistol in the current places off limits to CPL holders under Michigan law.

Thank you.

Brad Benzing, Executive Director
Shooters Alliance for Firearm Rights
P.O. Box 3
Frontier, MI 49239
574-304-6225
shootersalliance@gmail.com