



Policy Brief



Nov. 20, 2017

Concealed Pistols in Schools

Bill Number(s): Senate Bills 584 & 586

Status: House Judiciary Committee

MASB Position: **OPPOSED**

What does it do? Senate Bill 584 would allow an individual who receives an endorsement on his or her concealed pistol license to be able to carry a concealed pistol in gun-free zones, including schools, libraries, community colleges, churches, bars and stadiums. To obtain the endorsement, an individual will only need to complete an additional eight hours of classroom training and fire an additional 94 rounds. The bill will prohibit any individual from openly carrying a firearm in any gun-free zone. The legislation will allow private property owners to prohibit an individual from carrying a pistol, either openly or concealed, on the premises. Michigan's public universities could also enact and enforce an ordinance regulating possession, carrying, use and transportation of a pistol on its property.

Senate Bill 586 will ban local school districts, ISDs, community colleges and public libraries from enacting or enforcing any ordinance related to firearms that is stricter than federal or state law. Local school district and ISD boards will still be able to implement policies that prohibit their own students and employees from carrying firearms on school property.

How does it affect public schools? Public schools would be prohibited from implementing any policy that would limit an individual's ability to carry a concealed firearm on the school premises, reversing the Court of Appeals decisions in *Michigan Gun Owners, Inc. v Ann Arbor Public Schools* and *Michigan Open Carry, Inc. v Clio Public Schools*. The legislation will prohibit open carry of firearms on school property, but schools will have to allow individuals with a CPL endorsement to carry concealed firearms on school property. Schools will be able to prohibit their students and employees from carrying firearms on school property, but a school's policy cannot prohibit individuals who are not enrolled or employed by the school from carrying a firearm on the school's property.

Why is MASB Opposed? [MASB opposes guns in schools](#) carried by any individual who is not a law enforcement officer as they have sufficient training to identify and deescalate an active shooter situation. School boards should be able to implement policies related to firearms as it best fits their districts and community. Senate Bills 584 and 586 would ban this process and local decisionmaking.