

Conceal Carry Comparison Discussion

SB-93 is the bill that is being described as “constitutional carry.” This bill does not set up any system for issuing conceal carry licenses. Instead, the bill will allow any individual to carry a concealed weapon in most areas of the state, with certain exceptions. Those exemptions are limited and basically include law enforcement related buildings, airports, or certain state and municipally owned secured buildings.

An employer may prohibit an employee from carrying a concealed weapon in the course of the employee’s employment, except when that employee is in their own vehicle.

In addition, this draft would allow conceal carry in taverns and most public buildings, conceal carry of handguns in state parks and wildlife refuges, and changes state law to state prohibit being armed or possessing a firearm on school grounds (as opposed to within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school). It will also allow for loaded and uncased firearms and bow weapons to be carried in vehicles and will allow for the possession of electric weapons.

SB-90 /AB-126 set up a process for the issuance of a license to carry a concealed weapon (handgun, electric weapon, or Billy club). In order to qualify for a license, the applicant must be a Wisconsin resident at least 21 years old and must not be prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or state law (as discovered during a background check). The license fee will include \$13 for a criminal background check and \$52 for administrative expenses. Once issued, the license will be valid for five years. A renewal license fee of \$27 will also be assessed. One glaring omission from the bill is required training for those seeking a license.

There are several prohibitions where a license holder may carry a weapon. Those prohibitions include law enforcement related buildings, airports, and school grounds. The state or any municipality may prohibit a licensee from carrying a firearm into any government building. In addition, a business or homeowner may prohibit conceal carry on their property and employers may prohibit conceal carry during the course of employment.

The bill also requires DOJ and local law enforcement agencies to enable qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms under federal law. They would receive DOJ issued certification cards. Active duty officers would also be eligible to conceal carry weapons.

Various penalties are also established for license violations ranging from a fine of \$25 to a misdemeanor that carries up to \$10,000 in fines and up to 9 months imprisonment. The bill would also allow bows and crossbows to uncased and strung in vehicles as long as they are not armed.