

Concealed carry law draws near



by **Julie Unruh** Reporter

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Illinois residents are just a couple of days away from being able to apply for a license to carry a concealed handgun.

While it's clear the Concealed Carry law is here to stay, in its current form, it's also clear not everybody is happy with it in Illinois.

Some legislators and even small business owners that think the statute is too gray. They want something more black and white and hope they still have time to make it happen in hopes that everyone has a clear understanding where guns are welcome and where they are not.

To state senate president John Cullerton, the wording of the law is everything. He may be talking about the simple stuff that is, quite frankly, not so simple at all: Signage. He and others want no dispute over where guns can and can't be concealed and carried in the state.

While Cullerton is accepting now of the law that makes Illinois the last in the nation to permit concealed weapons in public places, Cullerton is still pressing for change.

So is Representative Sara Feigenholtz. She wants clarification about beaches versus forest preserves, public transportation versus public playgrounds.

Signage is also a big sticking point for restaurant owner Glen Keefer of Keefer's in River North. He's been in the restaurant business for decades and wants legislators to know he thinks booze and guns can be a deadly combination.

Earlier today, the Illinois State Police updated the public on their progress when it comes to Concealed Carry license applications, appearing online January 5th.

Fire arms owner ID cards are a must to get a concealed carry license. And gun owners are responding with vigor. It's a long process to weed through the demands whether you do it on paper or online. Meanwhile, law enforcement is preparing officers for the possible change in climate.

But as senate president Cullerton indicated, change to the statute is far from a done deal. It will take time and it will take compromise to alter the controversial bill that is law in the new year.

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