

# Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards

## Law Enforcement Retirees

### Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL) or Certification Under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA): Which do I Choose?

There are now three legal avenues that all retired Michigan law enforcement officers may take in order to legally carry concealed firearms. The first is the Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL). The second is certification under the federal Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA), as administered by the agency from which the officer retired. The third is a LEOSA certification obtained through the state of Michigan, as administered by MCOLES pursuant to P.A. 537 of 2008.

Each method, the Michigan CPL or LEOSA certification, offers advantages and disadvantages. Some retired officers may wish to obtain both credentials to gain the broadest range of carry privileges.

Under the federal LEOSA Act, retirees who have **certification** of annual training and **LEOSA identification** in their possession may, with certain restrictions, carry a concealed firearm in any of the states. Pursuant to P.A. 537 of 2008, MCOLES has the authority to certify retirees under LEOSA. Also, MCOLES is authorized to make and distribute the required LEOSA identification on behalf of and at the request of the agency from which the officer retired.

The following chart sorts out the advantages and disadvantages of carrying concealed firearms under the LEOSA certification versus carrying under the Michigan CPL. Before choosing to become a Michigan Concealed Pistol Licensee or to become LEOSA certified, law enforcement retirees residing in Michigan should consider the following.

	LEOSA Certification	Michigan CPL
<b>Will I Have to Train?</b>	LEOSA Certificate holders must train annually.	Retired officers seeking a Michigan CPL are exempt from Michigan CPL training requirements. Gun boards may require a letter from the former employer.
<b>Where Can I Carry?</b>	LEOSA Certificate holders may carry a concealed firearm in any of the nation's fifty states. The <b>only</b> way retirees may carry concealed firearms in California, Hawaii, Oregon, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Nevada, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, or the District of Columbia is through LEOSA Certification. LEOSA Certificate holders are <b>not</b> exempt from restrictions on carrying in gun free zones.	According to the NRA, 34 states recognize the Michigan CPL. They are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

<p><b>Can I carry in Gun Free Zones?</b></p>	<p>The LEOSA certification does not allow retired law enforcement officers to carry in gun free zones in any state, including Michigan.</p>	<p>Retired officers carrying under a Michigan CPL are exempt from gun free zone restrictions in Michigan. This exemption would probably not be recognized in gun free zones that exist in other states. Gun boards may require a letter from the former employer.</p>
<p><b>How often must I renew?</b></p>	<p>The LEOSA Certificate must be renewed annually.</p>	<p>The Michigan CPL must be renewed every five years.</p>
<p><b>How much does it cost?</b></p>	<p>A LEOSA certification through MCOLES will cost about \$200 in the initial year (\$35 application fee, \$95 for the training, and up to \$70 for one time only live scan prints) plus the cost of a passport quality photograph. The live scan will not need to be repeated for annual renewal of LEOSA certification, so the renewal cost is expected to be approximately \$130 annually.</p>	<p>The Michigan CPL is \$105 to \$120, depending on where the fingerprint scanning is done. The CPL is valid for 5 years.</p>