

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



P.O. Box 30212  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

**BILL SCHUETTE**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 13, 2011

Honorable Bruce Caswell  
State Senator  
The Capitol  
Lansing, MI

Dear Senator Caswell:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your request for an opinion on the question of whether the Concealed Pistol Licensing Act (CPLA), 1927 PA 372, MCL 28.421 *et seq.*, limits a licensee to carrying only one concealed pistol. Due to the subject matter of the request, I asked staff in our Opinions Division to review your letter. The following represents their findings:

This office's Informational Letter to Representative Mike Nofs from Chief Deputy Attorney General Carol L. Isaacs, dated July 17, 2007, answers the question whether the singular term "pistol" in the CPLA limits the number of pistols that a licensee may carry concealed. The letter explains that in the absence of specific limitations within the CLPA, there is no basis on which to conclude that the act operates as a prohibition on a licensee carrying multiple concealed pistols, assuming compliance with all other laws. Because no intervening changes in the law have occurred, our answer remains the same as in the previous informational letter to Representative Nofs. For your convenience, I am enclosing a copy of that letter.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Bandstra", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard A. Bandstra  
Chief Legal Counsel

Enc.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



MIKE COX  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. BOX 30212  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

July 17, 2007

Honorable Mike Nofs  
State Representative  
The Capitol  
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative Nofs:

Attorney General Cox has asked me to respond to your recent letter in which you ask if there is a limitation on the number of pistols that citizens may carry concealed if they possess a concealed pistol license. Due to the subject matter of the request, I asked staff in the Criminal Division to review your letter. The following represents their findings.

Your question involves consideration of the Concealed Pistol Licensing Act (CPLA), MCL 28.421 *et seq.* As noted in your letter, the text of the CPLA contemplates granting an applicant a license to carry a concealed *pistol* rather than concealed *pistols*.<sup>1</sup> You further indicate that this wording has caused some to infer that the use of the singular operates as a prohibition upon licensees carrying multiple concealed weapons.

Examination of the entire CPLA reveals no specific reference to a limitation on the number of concealed weapons that a licensee may possess. Thus, this issue becomes one primarily of statutory construction. The foremost rule is to effectuate the intent of the Legislature. *Wickens v Oakwood Healthcare Systems*, 465 Mich 53, 60; 631 NW2d 686 (2001). In addition, the Legislature has developed general rules that must be observed in the construction of the statutes of this State unless such a construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the Legislature. MCL 8.3. The Legislature has codified instructions relevant to the present question in MCL 8.3b, which provides:

Every word importing the singular number only may extend to and embrace the plural number, and every word importing the plural number may be applied and limited to the singular number. Every word importing the masculine gender only may extend and be applied to females as well as males.

<sup>1</sup> For example, section 5b of the CPLA authorizes individuals to apply for "a license to carry a concealed pistol" and specifies that the application shall contain a statement by the applicant that the applicant meets the criteria for a license "to carry a concealed pistol." MCL 28.425b(1) and 28.425b(1)(a).

Honorable Mike Nofs  
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Applying the guidance of MCL 8.3b and in the absence of specific limitations within the CPLA, there is no basis on which to conclude that the act operates as a prohibition on a licensee carrying multiple concealed pistols – assuming compliance with all other provisions.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, persons properly licensed to carry a concealed pistol may carry more than one concealed pistol at one time.

Sincerely yours,



Carol L. Isaacs  
Chief Deputy Attorney General

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<sup>2</sup> For example, among other things, most licensees may not carry concealed pistols on the premises of "pistol-free" zones under MCL 28.425o.