

Update on Concealed Carry Legislation

BOMA/Chicago has been actively involved in monitoring the concealed carry legislation currently being considered by the Illinois General Assembly. This legislation is in response to the invalidation of the current Illinois and Chicago gun bans by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, a decision that has been stayed until June 9th to allow Illinois time to join the other 49 states by enacting a concealed carry law.

There are currently competing House and Senate bills being considered by the legislature. It should be noted that both the Senate and House bills allow commercial office buildings the right to allow or disallow firearms on their property. This reflects the approach taken in many states.

If a concealed carry proposal is not passed by both chambers and signed into law by June 9, 2013, there are two potential scenarios that could occur: (a) Illinois would become a constitutional "open carry" state -- allowing anyone with a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card to openly carry a firearm anywhere in Illinois; or (b) each home-rule unit of local government (including Cook County and the City of Chicago) would be allowed to approve its own concealed carry regulations via ordinance -- creating a patchwork of different, and possibly conflicting, concealed carry rules throughout Illinois.

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to conclude the current legislative session this week, on May 31st, so the issue will be resolved in some fashion very soon. BOMA/Chicago's legislative team will continue to work to see that the right of commercial property owners determine proper policy for their

buildings is maintained.