

ANIMAL LAW SECTION
Public Policy Position
HB 4441 – HB 4443

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 202 members. The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Animal Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Animal Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 15 members. On April 11, 2017, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 10 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 4441 – HB 4443, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 5 members did not vote.

The Animal Law Section Supports HB 4441 – HB 4443 with Recommended Amendments

The Animal Law Section supports [HB 4441](#), [HB 4442](#), and [HB 4443](#) with recommended amendments.

Explanation:

These bills would add to the existing cross-reporting requirements to require CPS workers to report suspected animal abuse and Animal Control Officers to report suspected child abuse. HB 4441 introduces an amendment to the existing cross-reporting statute to require ACOs to report suspected child abuse, but it does not include the clear immunity from suit and penalty clauses included in HB 4442.

The Section supports these bills with the recommendation that HB 4441 be amended to include clear immunity and penalty provisions.

The correlation between violence against humans and violence against animals has long been recognized by society, and in the last fifty years, The Link® has been established by numerous reputable and reliable studies. Armed with that knowledge, some states have taken the lead in protecting humans and animals by legislatively mandating cross-reporting between and among professionals working in the fields of human and animal health and welfare. Michigan's child and animal protection laws should be strengthened by requiring these professionals to share information about human and animal abuse and neglect in this state. By doing so, we can create safer communities for people and animals in Michigan.



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