

**ANIMAL LAW SECTION
Public Policy Position
HB 4026**

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 4026, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 5 members did not vote.

The Animal Law Section Supports HB 4026

The Animal Law Section supports [HB 4026](#).

Explanation:

If passed, this bill would modify the act that provides for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence to include animal abuse (a violation of MCL 750.50b) within the definition of domestic violence.

Decades of research have proven what is referred to as 'The Link', which is the strong connection between human violence and animal cruelty. Abusers will often attempt to control, abuse, or punish a human victim by inflicting abuse on the human victim's animals. Such behavior should be recognized as domestic violence for the better protection of both people and animals in Michigan.

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