

**ANIMAL LAW SECTION
Public Policy Position
HB 5277**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 240 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 February 21, 2018, the Section adopted its position after discussion an electronic discussion and vote. 11 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 5277, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

The Animal Law Section Supports HB 5277.

Explanation:

HB 5277 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to create a civil infraction for a driver driving with an animal in his or her lap. The Section supports this bill because it is a critical safety issue for the driver, other people on the road, and the animal. This issue may not be addressed sufficiently by local ordinance (e.g., for distracted driving). This bill, if enacted, would provide a clear, uniform rule on this issue and better protect people and animals in Michigan.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com