

**ANIMAL LAW SECTION**  
**Public Policy Position**  
**HB 5321**

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 5321, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

**The Animal Law Section Opposes HB 5321.**

**Explanation:**

If enacted, HB 5321 would prohibit the DNR from issuing permits to sterilize game. This bill appears to target the efforts to control the deer population in Ann Arbor. Although Ann Arbor has engaged sharpshooters to control the deer population through a cull, even Ann Arbor's City Administrator has testified against this bill. Parties on both sides of the deer cull issue agree that in some instances (for example, in densely populated urban areas) darting and sterilizing deer may be the only available option for controlling a game species population. The Section opposes this bill, which would take authority from the DNR to consider all viable options in a situation where it is necessary to control overpopulation of a game species.

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