

**Public Policy Position  
SB 301**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 216 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 September 24 2018, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 8 members voted in favor of the Section's position on SB 301, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 7 members did not vote.

**SUPPORT WITH RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS****Explanation:**

The bill would modify MCL § 750.49 (animal fighting), 750.50 (anti-neglect), and 750.50b (anti-cruelty). The bill would strengthen the prohibition against animal ownership for defendants convicted under these statutes, which the Animal Law Section supports.

However, the bill would also include an exemption for any "CUSTOMARY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OR FARMING PRACTICE INVOLVING LIVESTOCK" in MCL § 750.49, which currently includes no exemption, and 750.50, which currently includes an exemption for any "generally accepted animal husbandry or farming practice involving livestock." As a "customary" practice is much harder to define and prosecute than a "generally accepted" practice, this exemption reduces protections for farmed animals in MCL § 750.50, and it is not appropriate to include an exemption in MCL § 750.49. The Animal Law Section supports the idea of consistent standards in MCL § 750.50 and 750.50b, but encourages the adoption of the "generally accepted animal husbandry practice involving livestock" standard in those sections. The Section opposes the inclusion of any exemption for livestock in MCL § 750.49.

**Contact Person:** Ann Griffin

**Email:** [annmgriffin@hotmail.com](mailto:annmgriffin@hotmail.com)