

ANIMAL LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4898

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The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Animal Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Animal Law Section is 207.

The position was adopted after an electronic discussion and vote. The number of members in the decision-making body is 15. The number who voted in favor to this position was 14. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4898](#) (McCready) Animals; animal shelters; pet shop, dog pound, and animal shelters act; modify to include large-scale commercial dog breeders and to make other general revisions. Amends secs. 1, 2, 5a, 6, 7 & 9 of [1969 PA 287](#) (MCL [287.331](#) et seq.) & adds sec. 9c.

Date position was adopted:

October 5, 2015

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after an electronic discussion and vote

Number of members in the decision-making body:

15

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

14 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

1 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

The Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan supports HB 4898, which would require large-scale breeders to register with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and would subject them to the same animal care requirements that apply to pet shops, animal control shelters, and animal protection shelters in this state. There is no logical basis on which to exempt large-scale breeders from these care requirements. In fact, unlike pet shops and shelters, which typically hold animals for short periods of time, breeders will be housing their adult dogs used for breeding for the entirety of those animals' lives. As evidenced by the attached chart (<https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-commercial-pet-breeders-laws>), twenty-five states have statutes and/or administrative regulations that apply to commercial breeders. Michigan needs to join the growing number of states regulating commercial breeding activities so that Michigan does not become identified as a state where

unscrupulous breeders can operate with impunity. Such breeders often sell puppies that are diseased or suffer from other health and/or behavior issues that require significant expenditures for veterinary care (if the animals can be saved). Such breeders can also be the subject of expensive investigations and animal seizures for violations of state anticruelty laws. It is in the best interest of both people and animals to regulate large-scale breeders in Michigan.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report. <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2015-HB-4898>