

**Public Policy Position
HB 4594**

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 June 28, 2019, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 6 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 4594, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 9 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports this bill, which prohibits the private ownership of primates. Wild animals such as primates should never be kept as pets. Their needs, including housing, diet, and companionship of other primates, cannot be met by the vast majority of private owners; they can inflict harm (biting and scratching, particularly once they reach puberty); they carry parasites and zoonotic diseases; and they are often the product of the cruel exotic pet trade. Private owners who quickly find themselves over their heads or tire of the burden of caring for these animals may look to a sanctuary as an alternative, but sanctuary space is very limited and may not be available.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com