

**Public Policy Position
HB 4596**

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 4596, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 9 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports this bill, which would promote the health and welfare of community cats. Based on extensive research and sound science, this bill represents a progressive and humane approach to managing the community cat population in Michigan and helping them to live the healthiest, safest lives possible. The community cat issue was created by – and continues to be exacerbated by – humans who have abandoned domesticated cats to care for themselves. These cats are survivors and prolific breeders, resulting in an estimated 30-40 million free-roaming cats in the U.S. Many are generations away from their ancestors who lived with humans and are not socialized to humans and could not live in a home. It is not affordable, practical, humane, or even possible to control the number of free-roaming cats by removing them from the community and euthanizing them. Instead, the proven method of controlling the number of community cats is the TNVR/SNVR strategy embodied in this bill.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com