

**Public Policy Position  
HB 4641**

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 4641, 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 criminalize the performance of a devocalization procedure on an animal without a veterinarian's determination that the procedure was being performed for a therapeutic purpose. Many veterinarians already refuse to perform this invasive and painful procedure, as there are many humane alternatives for training an animal, typically a dog, from making excessive noise.

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