

**Public Policy Position
HB 4723**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 259 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 August 12, 2021, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 14 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 1 member did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports HB 4723, which would designate the shelter animal as Michigan's official state pet. This bill was first introduced as HB 5069 in the 2017-18 session and arose out of a school project in a Troy grade school:

<http://gophouse.org/rep-howrylak-partners-students-statepet-proposal/>

It is hoped that designating shelter pets as Michigan's state pet will raise awareness of animal homelessness and encourage adoption and responsible pet ownership. Other states have designated shelter pets as the official state pet.

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