

**Public Policy Position
HB 4726**

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 4726, which would enable veterinarians and veterinary technicians from out of state to obtain a 90-day license to practice in Michigan to help with a disaster or large-scale cruelty case involving animals. The availability of veterinarians and technicians who have the necessary training and experience in shelter medicine, FEMA emergency management protocols, and emergency medicine is critical to the effective response to a disaster or large-scale cruelty case involving animals. This bill ensures that such resources are available without interfering with local veterinarians' income, as the bill provides that recipients of temporary licensure may only be paid by the government or a nonprofit.

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