

**Public Policy Position  
HB 4838**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 268 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 January 4, 2024, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 12 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 3 members did not vote.

**Support**

**Explanation:**

The Animal Law Section supports HB 4838, which would protect Michigan's people and animals by prohibiting the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits and shut down the commercial-breeder-to-pet-store pipeline. Michigan's 17 licensed pet shops import animals, particularly puppies, from large-scale breeders known as puppy mills that prioritize profit over animal welfare. These animals often live in squalid conditions and suffer from diseases (some of which are zoonotic), parasites, and behavioral and genetic problems. These animals are sold to unsuspecting members of the public who are often faced with extensive veterinary bills and in some cases the ultimate heartbreak of losing the animal. Several Michigan cities have already passed ordinances to ban retail pet sales.

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