

**Public Policy Position**  
**HB 5078**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 244 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 March 11, 2022, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 13 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 2 members did not vote.

**Support**

**Explanation:**

The Animal Law Section supports HB 5078, which would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.435326) to diversify the composition of the Michigan Wildlife Council. The bill would require that additional appointments to the Council include: 2 individuals with expertise in wildlife issues, habitat, or management representing conservation and promoting nonconsumptive use; an individual representing a Michigan tribal government; and an individual with a master's degree in zoology, wildlife management, or a related field and the equivalent of 6 years of full-time, relevant experience.

Under the current statute, the Council consists of representatives of consumptive uses of wildlife and does not take into consideration the views of the majority of Michigan residents, who have nonconsumptive interests in Michigan's wildlife. A variety of perspectives must be considered in any discussions regarding the management of Michigan's wildlife. This bill would add currently unrepresented stakeholders to those discussions.

**Contact Person:** Ann M. Griffin

**Email:** [annmgriffin@hotmail.com](mailto:annmgriffin@hotmail.com)