

**Public Policy Position
HB 5079**

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 with Recommended Amendments

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports HB 5079, which would amend the Public Health Code to allow an ambulance to provide “emergency transport of a police dog that is injured in the line of duty or a retired police dog to a veterinary clinic or similar facility, if the police dog or retired police dog is in need of emergency medical treatment.” Police dogs provide an invaluable service to our communities. This bill would help to ensure that they receive the care they need and deserve in exchange for the service they provide. For that reason, we recommend that the bill be amended to remove the requirement that an active duty police dog be “injured in the line of duty” in order to be transported by ambulance in an emergency.

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