

**Public Policy Position  
HB 5390**

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.

**Oppose**

**Explanation:**

The Animal Law Section opposes HB 5390, which would amend Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.43523a) to allow for hunting squirrels year-round without a license. This bill would remove this small game species from the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) management authority without a need or sound scientific basis. The DNR is in the best position to manage Michigan's wildlife resources in the best interests of all of Michigan's residents under the Public Trust Doctrine, to which the DNR subscribes ([https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Wildlife\\_GPS\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_434049\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Wildlife_GPS_Strategic_Plan_434049_7.pdf)).

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