

**Public Policy Position  
SB 0174**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 216 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 June 28, 2019, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 6 members voted in favor of the Section's position on SB 0174, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 9 members did not vote.

**Oppose with Recommended Amendments**

**Explanation:**

As introduced, this bill would repeal section 46 of the Animal Industry Act (MCL § 287.746), which would remove the prohibitions on the confinement of gestating sows and calves raised for veal and the not-yet implemented prohibition on hens in battery cages. We understand that according to current negotiations, section 46 will not be repealed. However, the phase-out of battery cages will be extended by five years with no offsetting benefits.

The Animal Law Section is opposed to the repeal of any protections for farmed animals contained in section 46 of the Animal Industry Act. The confinement practices that are prohibited or being phased out under that section are some of the most cruel in the agriculture industry.

If there is to be compromise regarding the phase-out of battery cages, the Section would support an extension of less than five years if additional benefits were offered. Michigan is the 6th-largest egg producing state in the country, meaning that a large number of animals are being subjected to cruel confinement in battery cages, and the industry has already had ten years to phase them out. However, a short extension of time to phase out battery cages may be acceptable if the animals are transitioned to humane, cage-free housing and there is a ban on the sale of eggs produced in another state in a facility utilizing battery cages.

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## ANIMAL LAW SECTION