

**Public Policy Position
SB 0429**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 213 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 February 10, 2020, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 11 members voted in favor of the Section's position on SB 0429, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Oppose

Explanation:

The original version of SB 429 would have required veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse inflicted on companion animals. However, the most current version, S-2, makes reporting permissive. Essentially, this change rendered this bill unnecessary, as MCL 333.18827 already allows veterinarians to report suspected abuse and, if done in good faith, protects the veterinarian from criminal and civil liability. SB 429 includes no such protection and would likely create confusion with the existing law on the subject. For that reason, the Animal Law Section opposes this bill.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com