

**Public Policy Position
SB 0316 & SB 0317**

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 0316 and SB 0317, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 9 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports these bills, which were introduced in the wake of the brutal killing of a dog adopted from the Michigan Humane Society under false pretenses. The person who tortured and killed the dog had originally applied to adopt him but was denied because having the dog in his apartment would violate his lease. He then enlisted the help of a friend who adopted the dog on his behalf. <https://www.wxyz.com/man-accused-of-killing-adopted-dog-told-roommate-dog-went-to-a-good-home>

SB 316 would criminalize the knowing transfer of an animal to a person who intends to use it for fighting or intends to abuse it.

SB 317 makes corresponding changes to the sentencing guidelines.

The Animal Law Section supports the bills and believes that they will be an excellent addition to our existing anticruelty and animal fighting statutes by criminalizing behavior that amounts to acting as an accessory to cruelty offenses.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com