

**Public Policy Position
SB 0352**

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 0352, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 9 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

This bill would require CPS workers to report suspected animal abuse. The Section supports this bill with the recommendation that the types of professionals required to report should be expanded, and the penalties for false reporting should be removed. The correlation between violence against humans and violence against animals has long been recognized by society, and in the last fifty years, The Link® has been established by numerous reputable and reliable studies. Armed with that knowledge, some states have taken the lead in protecting humans and animals by legislatively mandating cross-reporting between and among professionals working in the fields of human and animal health and welfare. Michigan's animal protection laws should be strengthened by requiring professionals to report information about animal abuse and neglect in this state. By doing so, we can create safer communities for people and animals in Michigan.

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