

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4478

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The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 2,945.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor of this position was 15. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0. The number who abstained from voting was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

Kent Weichmann

E-Mail:

weichmannk@att.net

Bill Numbers:

[HB 4478](#) (Kosowski) Civil procedure; personal protection orders; acts that may be enjoined; include harming animals owned by petitioner. Amends sec. 2950 of [1961 PA 236](#) (MCL [600.2950](#)).

Date position was adopted:

May 2, 2015

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

15 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

6 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4478 is a reintroduction of a bill we supported last term and allows pet protection in Personal Protection Orders. One of the tactics abusers use to control their victims is to threaten to hurt or kill their pet if the victim leaves. The definition of protected animals is difficult, but this bill provides the court with sufficient guidance to provide protection. The Family Law Section supports this bill.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2015-HB-4478>