

ANIMAL LAW SECTION  
Respectfully submits the following position on:

\*

SB 0386

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The Animal 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 Animal 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 Animal Law Section is 164.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 15. The number who voted in favor to this position was 13. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of section:**

Animal Law Section

**Contact person:**

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**Bill Number:**

[SB 0386](#) (Jones) Crimes; animals; ownership of animals by a person convicted by certain crimes against animals; require court to prohibit for a period of at least 5 years. Amends secs. 49, 50 & 50b of [1931 PA 328](#) (MCL [750.49](#) et seq.).

**Date position was adopted:**

July 26, 2013

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Position adopted after an electronic discussion and vote.

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

15

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

13 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

2 Did not vote

**Position:**

Support

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**

This bill amends the Michigan Penal Code to require a judge to order persons who are convicted of certain animal crimes not to own or possess an animal for at least five years. This strengthens existing law with regard to sentences for cases involving animal fighting (MCL 750.49); a second or subsequent conviction for animal cruelty and neglect (MCL 750.50); and killing, torturing, mutilating, maiming, disfiguring, or poisoning an animal (MCL 750.50b). The bill preserves discretion for judges to order permanent relinquishment of animal ownership.

One of the goals of the Animal Law Section is to "[p]romote legislation to advance animal protection." The bill would more strictly limit contact with animals by those convicted of the most egregious offenses toward them, thereby providing less opportunity for harm to other animals.

**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?2013-SB-0386>