

Public Policy Position
HB 4130, HB 4131, HB 4132

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 251 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 May 12, 2025, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 13 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 2 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports HB 4131, which would amend the Michigan Penal Code to provide more explicit standards for what constitutes appropriate shelter for dogs (and tie-barred bills HB 4130 and HB 4132, which update related cross references in other Acts). The proposed amendments give law enforcement additional guidance as to what will and will not constitute adequate shelter for dogs, with a focus on maintaining the animal in a state of good health, particularly when outdoors in extreme weather conditions. This is a critically important improvement to Michigan's current animal protection statutes.

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