

**Public Policy Position
HB 4542 and SB 390**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 256 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 September 11, 2025, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 15 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 0 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

SB 390/HB 4542 would amend the Revised Judicature Act to impose liability for harm to a service animal caused by a person or that person's animal. The bill provides for detailed economic damages, punitive damages (if the liable party acted intentionally or recklessly), and attorney fees and actual costs. The Animal Law Section supports these bills because they recognize the special value of service animals and the importance of the work they do for their handlers.

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