

**Public Policy Position
HB 5063**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 247 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 April 22, 2026, 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 5063, which would create a modest Michigan tax credit for fostering animals on behalf of an animal control shelter, animal protection shelter, or 501(c)(3) rescue organization.

This bill would incentivize and recognize the important role that animal fostering plays in saving both human and animal lives. Foster caregivers support overburdened animal shelters and rescues in providing care to stray animals, animals who are surrendered by their owners, and animals that have been abused and neglected and give those animals another chance at life in a loving home. Foster caregivers can also support fellow community members by participating in special programs through shelters and rescues to provide care to beloved pets during a crisis or transition period so that their families do not have to surrender their pets permanently to a shelter or rescue and do not sacrifice their own wellbeing (such as by delaying a hospitalization or staying in an abusive relationship) to avoid having to surrender their pets.

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