

**Public Policy Position  
HB 5067**

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.

**OPPOSE**

**Explanation:**

According to Michigan Audubon, the sandhill crane was hunted nearly to extinction in Michigan a century ago. Its recovery as a species is characterized as a conservation success story.

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/michigan-audubon-opposes-proposal-state-sandhill-crane-hunt/>

The Animal Law Section opposes HB 5067, which would designate the sandhill crane as a game species and create an open hunting season on sandhill cranes. There is no demonstrated need to designate the sandhill crane as a game species and subject them to an open hunting season, which could jeopardize this species' comeback. According to the Michigan Songbird Protection Coalition, "Recent research has noted that opening a recreational hunting season on the Eastern Population (EP) of sandhill cranes could easily wipe out genetically unique populations and the diversity necessary for long-term survival of the species. This is particularly crucial in the northernmost range of the EP, which includes Michigan." <https://songbirdprotection.com/c-faqs>

The sandhill crane should continue to be protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If needed, depredation permits to shoot sandhill cranes are available through the USFWS if they cause agricultural damage or are a threat to human health and safety. There are also a number of nonlethal management strategies.

**Contact Person:** Ann M. Griffin

**Email:** [annmgriffin@hotmail.com](mailto:annmgriffin@hotmail.com)