

**Public Policy Position  
HB 5068**

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:**

The Animal Law Section opposes HB 5068, which would classify the mourning dove as a game species and create an open hunting season on mourning doves. Mourning doves have been protected in Michigan since 1905 and should continue to be protected. There is no demonstrated need to hunt mourning doves in Michigan.

Past efforts to create a mourning dove hunting season have been defeated, most recently by a petition-driven referendum that was placed on the ballot in November 2006. Sixty-nine percent of Michigan voters, who value mourning doves as backyard songbirds and symbols of peace, voted against hunting mourning doves. The hunt was voted down in all of Michigan's 83 counties. The legislature should not attempt once again to override the will of Michigan residents.

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