

**Public Policy Position
HB 5265**

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 5265, which would create a grant program to assist military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress as a result of their service in obtaining a service animal. Professionally trained PTSD service dogs can cost \$15,000-\$30,000 or more, and the cost is not covered by insurance. These dogs can be an invaluable source of support for veterans with PTSD and can be trained to interrupt nightmares, interrupt panic attacks, help veterans break out of disassociation, and provide blocking or cover to ease anxiety caused by crowded public places. The relationship between a veteran and a PTSD service dog is a powerful testament to the human-animal bond and increases the veteran's quality of life by helping him or her to regulate emotions and achieve increased social interaction and independence.

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