

**Public Policy Position  
HB 5409**

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 5409, which would amend the Crime Victims Compensation Board Act to provide for pet-related expenses related to the victim's relocation, including a pet deposit, pet rent, or boarding. Studies have shown that nearly 50% of domestic violence victims will stay in an abusive relationship if they cannot leave with their pets. More than 70% of women in domestic violence shelters said that their abusers threatened, injured, or killed their pets. This bill would improve both human and animal safety by removing a victim's financial barriers to relocating with pets.

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