

**Public Policy Position
HB 5410**

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 5410, which would make funding available for domestic violence shelters to shelter and provide support services to “common household pets.” 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. But less than 20% of domestic violence shelters are able to accommodate pets. This bill would provide funding to shelters so that they could also house pets, which will improve both human and animal safety.

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