

**Public Policy Position  
SB 111**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 251 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 May 12, 2025, 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 SB 111, which would allow an elderly or vulnerable adult to petition the circuit court for a personal protection order. The order could, among other things, restrain or enjoin an individual from causing mental distress or exerting control over the petitioner by doing any of the following to an animal in which the petitioner has an ownership interest:

1. Injuring, killing, torturing, or neglecting an animal or threatening to do any of those things to an animal;
2. Removing an animal from the petitioner's possession; or
3. Retaining or obtaining possession of an animal.

There is a well-documented connection, referred to as The Link, between violence against people and violence against animals. Abusers often exploit the human-animal bond and their victim's relationship with an animal to cause mental distress or exert control over that victim by hurting or threatening the victim's pet(s). This bill will more effectively protect people and animals by allowing animals to be included in personal protection orders for elderly and vulnerable adults.

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