

**Public Policy Position
SB 28**

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.

Oppose**Explanation:**

The Animal Law Section is opposed to SB 28, which would eliminate the requirement that shell eggs sold in Michigan be from hens in cage-free housing on farms with more than 3,000 egg-laying hens. While proposed as a means to lower egg prices, the bill sponsor was quoted in a news story as saying that avian flu is the primary cause of higher egg prices. The process of moving to cage-free egg production requirements in Michigan was a long one, which started with legislation passed in 2009 that provided for a 10-year transition period. In 2019, Republican-led legislation moved the effective date to December 31, 2024, allowing producers another five years to transition to cage-free operations. The elimination of the use of battery cages as a means of housing egg-laying hens was a critical step in reducing extreme suffering for millions of egg-laying hens in Michigan (the seventh largest egg producing state in the country) who were deprived of their ability to engage in natural behaviors, including walking and extending their wings. This long-anticipated improvement in welfare for egg-laying hens should not be revoked.

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