

Public Policy Position
SB 148 & SB 149, HB 4277 & HB 4278

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 265 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 these items.

The Animal Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 15 members. On June 2, 2023, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 10 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 5 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports SB 148 and SB 149 and companion bills HB 4277 and HB 4278, which protect dogs and cats used in research. SB 148/HB 4277 would impose modest reporting requirements on research facilities using dogs and/or cats for research. An annual report to MDARD would be required to include the number of dogs and/or cats owned by the research facility, the number of dogs and/or cats used for research, and the number of dogs and/or cats released for adoption through an animal control or animal protection shelter. This minimal reporting ensures transparency and would provide more accurate information about dogs and cats being used for research in Michigan than is currently available. SB 149/HB 4278 would require that once they are no longer required for research, research dogs and cats must be offered to an animal control or animal protection shelter so that they may be adopted into a home. If animals must be used in research, they deserve a chance at living the remainder of their lives in loving homes once they have provided such service. The bills protect research facilities and animal control and animal protection shelters from civil liability related to the transfer of retired research animals if they acted in good faith regarding the animals' health.

Contact Person: Ann M. Griffin

Email: annmgriffin@hotmail.com