

ANIMAL LAW SECTION  
Respectfully submits the following position on:

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SB 0048

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The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Animal Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Animal Law Section is 164.

The position was adopted after discussion at a special meeting. An electronic vote was held in the subsequent week. The number of members in the decision-making body is 14. The number who voted in favor to this position was 13. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of section:**

Animal Law Section

**Contact person:**

Donald Garlit

**E-Mail:**

[donaldgarlit@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldgarlit@yahoo.com)

**Bill Number:**

[SB 0048](#) (Casperperson) Animals; other; exemption from large carnivore act for certain businesses; expand to exempt businesses that allow patrons to come into contact with bears less than 36 weeks of age or bears that weigh 90 pounds or less and make other general revisions. Amends secs. 2 & 22 of [2000 PA 274](#) (MCL [287.1102](#) & [287.1122](#)).

**Date position was adopted:**

February 22, 2013

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Special meeting of February 15, 2013 (with quorum) discussed motion. Electronic vote was held in subsequent week.

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

14

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

13 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

1 Abstained from vote

0 Did not vote

**Position:**

Oppose

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**

Opposition to SB 48 Amending the Large Carnivore Act to Permit Handling of Bear Cubs

As the legislation, SB 48 amending the Large Carnivore Act is special-interest legislation, benefitting one business versus possible injuries to humans and to the detriment of bears;

As an alleged economic boon should not be the only justification for legislation;

As bears are wild animals;

As passage of SB 48/HB 48 would encourage the breeding and trade of wild animals for no other purpose than entertainment;

As amendment of the Large Carnivore Act is not in the public interest as it weakens the Large Carnivore Act, which protects humans and wild animals;

As SB 48/HB48 weakens the Large Carnivore Act, which protects wild animals and humans, by encouraging breeding of wild animals for entertainment, and it may cause the removal of young bears from the wild, which is inconsistent with the Animal Law Section mission.

As the amendment of the Large Carnivore Act, which would allow humans to handle bear cubs, is not associated with any fundamental right:

The Animal Law Section opposes Senate Bill 48.

**The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.**

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2013-SB-0048>