

ANIMAL LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4534 & HB 4535

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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 an electronic discussion and vote. The number of members in the decision-making body is 15. The number who voted in favor to this position was 13. The number who voted opposed to this position was 1.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4534](#) (Muxlow) Animals; animal shelters; use of animal abuse registry by animal control shelters and animal protection shelters when allowing an animal adoption; require, and prohibit animal control shelters and animal protection shelters from allowing a person listed on an animal abuse registry to adopt an animal. Amends [1969 PA 287](#) (MCL [287.331](#) - [287.340](#)) by adding sec. 8b.

[HB 4535](#) (Santana) Criminal procedure; other; animal abuse offenders registry; create. Creates new act.

Date position was adopted:

June 3, 2013

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after an electronic discussion and vote.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

15

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

13 Voted for position

1 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

1 Did not vote

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

These bills would create an animal abuse registry available to authorities or organizations who investigate animal abuse, or are involved with licensing foster care applicants. Shelters adopting animals would be required to search the registry and could not adopt to any person listed thereon. The Council supports the bill as an appropriate and reasonable measure to protect animals as well as humans, given the established connection between animal abuse and other violent behavior. It strikes a balance by making the information available only to parties with a need to

know. The Council recommends expanding those entities required to search the database to breeders and others who sell, as well as adopt, animals.

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-HB-4534>

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