

ANIMAL LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 5658

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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 185.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting and an electronic discussion and vote for those members not in attendance. 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 0.

Report on Public Policy Position**Name of Section:**

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

Ann M. Griffin

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[HB 5658](#) (Santana) Civil procedure; personal protection orders; acts that may be enjoined; include harming animals owned by petitioner. Amends sec. 2950 of [1961 PA 236](#) (MCL [600.2950](#)).

Date position was adopted:

October 15, 2014

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote both at a scheduled meeting and via email with those not present at the meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

15

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

13 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

2 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 5658 would amend the "Revised judicature act of 1961" (MCL 600.2950) to include animals in personal protection orders. Twenty-nine states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have enacted laws that allow pets to be included in domestic violence protection orders. (<https://www.animallaw.info/article/domestic-violence-and-pets-list-states-include-pets-protection-orders>) "Researchers have found that between 71% and 83% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partners also abused or killed the family pet. And another study found that in families under supervision for physical abuse of their children, pet abuse was concurrent in 88% of the families." (http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse_neglect/qa/cruelty_violence_connection_faq.html). Many domestic violence victims are reluctant to leave an abusive situation for fear of what will happen to their animals. (<http://www.americanhumane.org/interaction/support-the-bond/fact-sheets/animal-abuse-domestic->

violence.html) For the safety of the victims of domestic violence, their children, and their animals, Michigan should join the majority of states that include pet provisions in domestic violence protection orders.

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?2014-HB-5658>