



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

HB 5263 (Young) Animals; other; research facility or dealer obtaining dogs or cats from an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; prohibit, and regulate the purchase and sale of random source animals. Amends secs. 1, 8 & 9 of [1969 PA 224](#) (MCL [287.381](#) et seq.).

Date position was adopted:

10/26/07

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

14

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

14 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

The Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan (“ALS”) was formed to monitor legal issues associated with animals and their owners or custodians. Our purpose includes advocacy of responsible, humane, and ethical management and care of animals. We provide education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, the web, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter.

As you are aware, HB 5263 will amend the Dog Law of 1919 to protect "random source" animals from being sold for use as research animals. The bill would bar U.S.D.A. Class B dealers, research facilities, and unlicensed individuals from purchasing, acquiring, selling or making available a random source cat or dog for research or experimentation.

We write to you today to express our appreciation and general support for this bill, and as it progresses through the legislative process, we request that you consider the following points for amendment:

- A) Section 8: ALS recommends that a definition should be included for the word “experimentation.” Experimentation is used in Section 8(1)(A). ALS suggests that Experimentation may be defined as research,

testing, or any form of medical, scientific or other experimentation performed by a research facility or person.

B) Section 9(3): ALS recommends the addition of the following underlined words: (3) A research facility or dealer regardless of whether the Dealer is licensed or not, shall not obtain a dog or cat from an Animal Control Shelter or Animal Protection Shelter.

In closing, ALS believes that this proposed legislation, if enacted, would greatly benefit the citizens of Michigan and their companion animals. Please feel free to call on our organization for support for this bill or future legislation designed to protect animals. Assistance that we offer includes legal research and drafting. We are also available to testify in support of applicable legislation as it progresses through the legislative process.

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

House Bill 5263 <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2007-HB-5263>