

ANIMAL LAW SECTION
Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4478

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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 243.

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 14. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4478](#) (Kosowski) 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:

May 11, 2015

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:

14 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote 1 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

The State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section supports HB 4478, which would allow animals to be included in personal protection orders. Research studies show the strong connection between violence against humans and animal abuse and that victims of domestic violence will delay or avoid leaving an abusive situation for fear of what will happen to their animals. Abusers will often use animals to try to manipulate and control their victims. By the end of 2014, 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had all enacted legislation to allow the inclusion of pets in PPOs. Michigan needs to join that growing list of states in order to provide greater protection for both humans and animals in Michigan.

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?2015-HB-4478>