



ANIMAL LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 5987

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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 221.

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 12. 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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**Bill Number:**  
[HB 5987](#) (Lauwers) Agriculture; animals; requirements that confined animals be provided space to allow certain movements; delay application of to certain livestock. Amends sec. 46 of [1988 PA 466](#) (MCL [287.746](#)).

**Date position was adopted:**  
November 7, 2016

**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:**  
12 Voted for position  
0 Voted against position  
0 Abstained from vote  
3 Did not vote (absent)

**Position:**  
Oppose

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**  
HB 5987 would amend MCL 287.746 and extend the phase-out period for battery cages for egg-laying hens by another 5 years.

As originally enacted, the statute gives egg producers until April 1, 2020 (ten years from the statute's enactment) to comply with the new requirements. The statute was originally enacted as a compromise to avoid a ballot initiative. The new rules resulting from California's ballot measure against battery cages became effective in 7 years. In Ohio, the moratorium on battery cages became effective the same year it was passed.

While producers clearly can comply with new requirements in less than 10 - or 15 - years, ostensibly, the proposed extension in Michigan is designed to match the time frame within which corporate buyers have pledged that they