

**Public Policy Position
HB 5778**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 247 members. The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Animal Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Animal Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 15 members. On April 22, 2018, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 12 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 5778, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 3 members did not vote.

OPPOSE

Explanation:

HB 5778 would make significant changes to the Large Carnivore Act, which covers large cats and bears. Rather than make a modest change to the statute to correct an original drafting error that would prevent AZA-accredited zoos from breeding these animals, the bill instead creates a complicated scheme that would allow a wide range of people and entities to breed, own, and transfer these animals. The bill would require the already overextended MDARD to try to enforce this complicated scheme and would allow entities that aren't subjected to the AZA's strict standards to breed, own, and transfer these potentially dangerous animals who are very difficult to keep humanely in captivity.

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