

**Public Policy Position
SB 157**

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 249 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 March 18, 2025, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 13 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 2 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:

The Animal Law Section supports SB 157. The need for state regulation of pet cemeteries was made abundantly clear in 2018 when a Livingston County pet cemetery closed abruptly. The cemetery property was leased, and when the lessee/cemetery operator defaulted on the lease, the property owners decided to sell the property. Pet owners whose pets were buried in the cemetery were asked to disinter and relocate their pets' remains on very short notice, which was an extremely traumatic situation. In addition to being an important piece of consumer protection legislation, this bill also acknowledges the importance of the human-animal bond.

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