

Public Policy Position
SB 0783

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 471 members. The Children's Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Children's Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Children's Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 19 members. On April 19, 2024, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 10 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 1 member voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 7 members did not vote.

Oppose

Explanation:

The Children's Law Section opposes SB 783, which would require CPS investigators to report suspected animal abuse or neglect to law enforcement or animal control. Our section is concerned that 1) CPS investigators are not trained on how to recognize animal abuse or neglect; 2) time spent considering whether an animal has been abused or neglected distracts from the investigator's responsibility to look into child abuse or neglect; and 3) if a family believes that the CPS investigator reported them for animal abuse or neglect, they are less likely to comply with the CPS investigation, which could make it more difficult for the investigator to do their job.

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