RESOLUTION 2025-19

Resolution Supporting Michigan Senate Bills 293 and 294

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 293 and 294 would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process that would apply when an animal is seized due to a pending or active court case involving a violation of Michigan law prohibiting animal neglect (MCL 750.50) or cruelty (MCL 750.50b) by the animal's owner; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of an effective bond-or-forfeit process in those statutes, which would require a defendant/owner charged with animal neglect or cruelty to forfeit the animals to the seizing agency or pay for the costs of the animal's care and housing with a bond, would benefit both animals and the people in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the current bond-or-forfeit process applicable in cases of animal neglect or cruelty, creates a burden for seizing agencies such as Chippewa County Animal Control, as the one holding the animal, responsible for housing, food, veterinary care, and other costs as the animal is held for the duration of criminal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, without an effective process, animals continue to be victims and when they have to remain in a shelter for an extended period of time, it is not only detrimental to the animals, but to the staff and volunteers of the facility also; and

WHEREAS, precedent has been set in that the bond-or-forfeit process that is being proposed for MCL 750.50 and MCL 750.50b, is already included in MCL 750.49, Michigan's animal fighting statute; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County Prosecutor Robert Stratton and Animal Shelter Manager Holly Henderson are asking the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for the Senate Bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bills 293 and 294 that would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process for animals seized due to pending or active court cases involving violations of animal neglect or cruelty by the animal's owner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, all Michigan counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.
Resolution #2025-18

Moved: Commissioner Martin

Supported: Commissioner Traynor

Carried: Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, Jim Traynor and Jim Martin

Absent: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of CHIPPEWA, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 11th day of September 2025, the original of which resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held, and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this 11th day of September 2025.

Steven Woodgate, Clerk
County of Chippewa