



**STACY LOAR-PORTER, Berrien County Clerk**  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court—Vital Records Division**

County Clerk's Office, Administration Center, 701 Main St., St. Joseph MI 49085  
269-983-7111, Ext. 8233, Fax 269-982-8667

## **RESOLUTION**

**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 Berrien 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**, Berrien County Prosecutor Amy Byrd and Animal Shelter Manager Ashley Herr are asking the Berrien County Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for the Senate Bills.

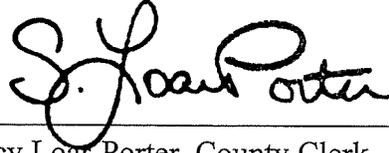
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bills 293 and 294 that would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process for animals seized due to pending or active court cases involving violations of animal neglect or cruelty by the animal's owner.

**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 to be a posted communication in each county.

Roll call vote: 10 Yeas: Bell, Curran, Freehling, Hinkelman, Ott, Leahey, Pitchford, Tyler, Yarbrough, and Elliott. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

## CERTIFICATION

The Undersigned, being the Clerk of Berrien County, does hereby certify that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners did adopt the above resolution at its Regular Meeting. This Board of Commissioners did also request that a copy of said resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Majority Leader Winnie Brinks of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives Matt Hall, and all Michigan counties, and their County Clerks for their consideration and action and to be a posted communication in each county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stacy Loar-Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "L".

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Stacy Loar-Porter, County Clerk  
Berrien County  
Board of Commissioners



KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION 2025-980**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR PREPAID INPATIENT HEALTH PLAN**

- WHEREAS,** the State of Michigan currently operates a publicly managed and community-based system for the delivery of specialty behavioral health services through 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (“PIHPs”), which are responsible for managing Medicaid mental health, developmental disability, and substance use disorder services; and
- WHEREAS,** the current PIHP system has consistently demonstrated value, local accountability, and community engagement, while successfully managing costs and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (“MDHHS”) recently announced plans to initiate a competitive procurement process for the management of PIHP functions, which may open the door to private, non-profit health plans or managed care organizations (“MCOs”) assuming control over behavioral health services; and
- WHEREAS,** such privatization could disrupt longstanding relationships between local mental health authorities, providers, and the communities they serve, and jeopardize the person-centered, recovery-oriented approach that has been cultivated under the public system; and
- WHEREAS,** many stakeholders, including individuals receiving services, advocates, local officials, and providers have expressed significant concerns about the potential impact of a competitive procurement process on care quality, access, local control, and transparency; and
- WHEREAS,** counties across Michigan have historically played a vital role in the governance, funding, and oversight of the public behavioral health system, and any change to that structure without meaningful county input undermines the principle of local governance; and
- WHEREAS,** maintaining a publicly accountable and locally governed behavioral health system is essential to ensuring that individuals with mental health and substance use needs receive timely, appropriate, and high-quality care. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) plan to implement a competitive procurement process for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs); and **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board urges Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan Legislature to halt any plans for privatization and instead work collaboratively with counties, PIHPs, Community Mental Health Services Programs, service users, and other stakeholders to strengthen and improve the public behavioral health system, by only allowing public organizations with experience in managing Michigan's public mental health system to be part of any bid process should one occur; and **BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED**, that Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Kalamazoo County delegation of both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives; Governor Gretchen Whitmer; and as a communication to other Michigan Counties.

**Adopted:** August 19, 2025

**Moved:** John Taylor

**Seconded:** Abigail Wheeler

**Roll Call Vote: Yes (9): Dale DeLeeuw, John Gisler, Jeff Heppler, Wendy Mazer, Monteze Morales, Tami Rey, Jen Strebs, John Taylor, Abigail Wheeler; No (0): None; Abstains (0): None; Absent (0): None**

**Carried.**



Jennifer A. Strebs, Chair  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners



Meredith Place  
Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register of Deeds