

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7631

To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans for Mustangs
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE WILD FREE-ROAMING**
2 **HORSES AND BURROS ACT.**

3 Section 3(b)(2) of the Act commonly known as the
4 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C.
5 1333(b)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “that action is necessary” and
7 all that follows through “until all excess animals
8 have been removed” and inserting “that action is
9 necessary to reduce the animal population or remove
10 excess animals, the Secretary shall immediately take
11 steps under this paragraph to achieve appropriate
12 management levels. Such action shall be taken, in
13 the following order and priority, until the animal
14 population has been reduced or all excess animals
15 have been removed”;

16 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through
17 (C) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;
18 and

19 (3) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so
20 redesignated, the following:

21 “(A) The Secretary shall implement non-
22 surgical, medically safe on-range fertility con-
23 trols to manage populations of wild free-roam-
24 ing horses and burros. In implementing such
25 fertility controls, the Secretary, through the
26 Bureau of Land Management, shall prioritize

1 the recruitment of military veterans to train
2 and become certified in the application of fer-
3 tility controls with respect to wild free-roaming
4 horses and burros, including the certified PZP
5 applicator certification offered by the Science
6 and Conservation Center's Certification Pro-
7 gram. The Secretary shall provide appropriate
8 compensation to military veterans participating
9 in such a certification program. Notwith-
10 standing any other provision of law, the Sec-
11 retary is authorized to contract with military
12 veterans who have completed the training pro-
13 gram under this subparagraph to carry out
14 management activities under this Act. Individ-
15 uals contracted with pursuant to this subpara-
16 graph shall not be regarded as officers or em-
17 ployees of the United States on the basis of
18 such contract.”.

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