

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 726

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. MACE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans for Mustangs  
3 Act”.

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

6 Section 3 of the Act commonly known as the Wild  
7 Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C. 1333)  
8 is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

10 (A) by striking “that action is necessary”  
11 and all that follows through “until all excess  
12 animals have been removed” and inserting  
13 “that action is necessary to reduce the animal  
14 population or remove excess animals, the Sec-  
15 retary shall immediately take steps under this  
16 paragraph to achieve appropriate management  
17 levels. Such action shall be taken, in the fol-  
18 lowing order and priority, until the animal pop-  
19 ulation has been reduced or all excess animals  
20 have been removed”;

21 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and  
22 (C);

23 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “;  
24 and” and inserting a period; and

25 (D) by inserting before subparagraph (B)  
26 the following:

1           “(A) The Secretary shall implement non-  
2           surgical, medically safe on-range fertility con-  
3           trols to manage populations of wild free-roam-  
4           ing horses and burros. In implementing such  
5           fertility controls, the Secretary, through the  
6           Bureau of Land Management, shall prioritize  
7           the recruitment of military veterans to train  
8           and become certified in the application of fer-  
9           tility controls with respect to wild free-roaming  
10          horses and burros, including the certified PZP  
11          applicator certification offered by the Science  
12          and Conservation Center’s Certification Pro-  
13          gram. The Secretary shall provide appropriate  
14          compensation to military veterans participating  
15          in such a certification program. Notwith-  
16          standing any other provision of law, the Sec-  
17          retary is authorized to contract with military  
18          veterans who have completed the training pro-  
19          gram under this subparagraph to carry out  
20          management activities under this Act. Individ-  
21          uals contracted with pursuant to this subpara-  
22          graph shall not be regarded as officers or em-  
23          ployees of the United States on the basis of  
24          such contract.”; and  
25          (2) in subsection (d)—

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- 1 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and
- 2 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
- 3 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4) respectively.

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