

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2864

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

APRIL 10, 2025

Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CROW, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. COHEN) 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(b)(2) of the Act commonly known as the  
7 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C.  
8 1333(b)(2)) is amended—

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

19 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through  
20 (C) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;  
21 and

22 (3) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so  
23 redesignated, the following:

24 “(A) The Secretary shall implement hu-  
25 mane, reversible, non-surgical, medically safe  
26 on-range immunocontraceptive vaccine fertility

1 controls to manage populations of wild free-  
2 roaming horses and burros. In implementing  
3 such fertility controls, the Secretary, through  
4 the Bureau of Land Management, shall  
5 prioritize the recruitment of military veterans to  
6 train and become certified in the application of  
7 fertility controls with respect to wild free-roam-  
8 ing horses and burros, including the certified  
9 PZP applicator certification offered by the  
10 Science and Conservation Center's Certification  
11 Program. The Secretary shall provide appro-  
12 priate compensation to military veterans par-  
13 ticipating in such a certification program. Not-  
14 withstanding any other provision of law, the  
15 Secretary is authorized to contract with military  
16 veterans who have completed the training pro-  
17 gram under this subparagraph to carry out  
18 management activities under this Act. Individ-  
19 uals contracted with pursuant to this subpara-  
20 graph shall not be regarded as officers or em-  
21 ployees of the United States on the basis of  
22 such contract.”.

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