

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8541

To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to provide for criminal penalties for acquiring a wild free-roaming horse or burro with the intention of transferring such animal for processing into commercial products, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Mrs. LUNA 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 provide for criminal penalties for acquiring a wild free-roaming horse or burro with the intention of transferring such animal for processing into commercial products, 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 “Wild Horse Integrity
5 and Slaughter Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIME PERIOD BEFORE TITLE GRANTED; CRIMINAL**
2 **PENALTY.**

3 The Act of December 15, 1971 (16 U.S.C. 1331, et
4 seq.; commonly known as the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses
5 and Burros Act”) is amended as follows:

6 (1) In section 3(c) (16 U.S.C. 1333(c))—

7 (A) by striking “period of one year” and
8 inserting “period of 6 months”; and

9 (B) by striking “one-year period” and in-
10 serting “6-month period”.

11 (2) In section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1338)—

12 (A) by striking “Any person who” and in-
13 serting “(a) Any person who”;

14 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “except
15 as provided in section 3(e),”;

16 (C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
17 paragraph (8);

18 (D) by inserting after paragraph (5), the
19 following:

20 “(6) acquires a wild free-roaming horse or
21 burro, or the remains thereof, with the intention of
22 transferring such animal, or the remains thereof, di-
23 rectly or indirectly, for processing into commercial
24 products, or

25 “(7) knowingly transfers an acquired wild free-
26 roaming horse or burro, or the remains thereof, di-

1 rectly or indirectly, for processing commercial prod-
2 ucts, or”;

3 (E) in the matter following paragraph (8),
4 as so redesignated, by striking “be subject to”
5 and all that follows through “United States
6 Code” and inserting “have committed a felony
7 offense punishable by a fine of not more than
8 \$2,000, imprisonment for a term exceeding one
9 year, or both”; and

10 (F) by amending subsection (b) to read as
11 follows:

12 “(b) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary
13 of Agriculture, and their respective employees, shall have
14 power to investigate possible violations of the offenses list-
15 ed in subsection (a). A finding of non-compliance shall be
16 referred to the Attorney General (or one of the U.S. Attor-
17 ney’s offices serving under the Attorney General) for pros-
18 ecution.”.

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