

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7670

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the captivity of mink, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2024

Ms. MACE (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the captivity
of mink, 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 “Minks In Narrowly
5 Kept Spaces are Superspreaders Act” or the “MINKS are
6 Superspreaders Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CAPTIVITY OF MINK.**

8 The Animal Welfare Act is amended by inserting
9 after section 19 (7 U.S.C. 2149) the following:

1 **“SEC. 20. PROHIBITION ON CAPTIVITY OF MINK.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
3 (b), no person shall transport, sell, receive, acquire, or
4 purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or breed or
5 possess, any American mink (*Neovison vison*) raised in
6 captivity for fur production, whether dead or alive, or any
7 part, product, or offspring thereof.

8 “(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to
9 an entity described in any of subparagraphs (A) through
10 (E) of section 3(e)(2) of the Lacey Act Amendments of
11 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372(e)(2)).

12 “(c) BUY-OUT OF MINK FARMS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
14 of appropriations, the Secretary shall seek to pur-
15 chase privately owned mink farms for an amount de-
16 termined under paragraph (2).

17 “(2) AMOUNT.—In determining an amount to
18 offer a mink farmer to purchase the applicable mink
19 farm pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
20 take into account—

21 “(A) the most recent 3-year average of the
22 number of mink owned by the mink farmer; and

23 “(B) the infrastructure value of the mink
24 farm.”.

○