

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 774

To limit the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to penalize an owner of livestock for grazing by such livestock on certain Federal lands on which grazing is permitted on or after the date of enactment of this Act and subsequently prohibited, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Ms. HAGEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To limit the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to penalize an owner of livestock for grazing by such livestock on certain Federal lands on which grazing is permitted on or after the date of enactment of this Act and subsequently prohibited, 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 “Protecting Agricultural
3 Spaces Through Effective Ranching Strategies Act” or the
4 “PASTURES Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON PENALTIES FOR GRAZING LIVE-**
6 **STOCK ON CERTAIN COVERED LANDS.**

7 (a) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary concerned may not
8 impose a penalty on an owner of livestock for grazing by
9 such livestock on covered lands on which a fence for the
10 prevention of such grazing does not exist.

11 (b) **FENCE EXPENSES.**—The Secretary concerned
12 shall be responsible for any expense related to the con-
13 struction or maintenance of any fence constructed or
14 maintained on covered lands for the prevention of grazing
15 by livestock on such covered lands.

16 (c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

17 (1) **COVERED LANDS.**—The term “covered
18 lands” means National Forest System lands, lands
19 administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, or public lands—

21 (A) on which grazing is permitted by graz-
22 ing permit or lease on or after the date of en-
23 actment of this Act and subsequently prohib-
24 ited; and

25 (B) that borders private property.

1 (2) GRAZING PERMIT OR LEASE.—The term
2 “grazing permit or lease” means—

3 (A) a grazing permit as such term is de-
4 fined in section 222.1 of title 36, Code of Fed-
5 eral Regulations (or successor regulations);

6 (B) a cooperative agreement referred to in
7 section 29.2 of title 50, Code of Federal Regu-
8 lations (or successor regulations) that permits
9 grazing; or

10 (C) a grazing permit or lease described in
11 section 4130.2 of title 43, Code of Federal Reg-
12 ulations (or successor regulations).

13 (3) LIVESTOCK.—The term “livestock” includes
14 cattle, bison, horses, sheep, and goats.

15 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
16 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
17 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
18 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
19 U.S.C. 1609).

20 (5) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
21 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of
22 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
23 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

24 (6) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
25 retary concerned” means—

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
2 spect to National Forest System lands; and

3 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
4 spect to public lands and lands administered by
5 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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