

HR 3783

Mink VIRUS Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 1, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. (Jul 10, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3783>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]

Party: Democratic • State: NY • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Sep 18, 2023
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Sep 18, 2023
Rep. D'Esposito, Anthony [R-NY-4]	R · NY		Dec 11, 2023
Rep. Malliotakis, Nicole [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Mar 12, 2024
Rep. Barragán, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Mar 15, 2024
Rep. Davis, Donald G. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		Mar 15, 2024
Rep. Frost, Maxwell [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Mar 15, 2024
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Mar 15, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 10, 2023
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 1, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Mink: Vectors for Infection Risk in the United States Act or the Mink VIRUS Act

This bill prohibits the farming of mink for their fur beginning one year after the bill's enactment and establishes a compensation program.

Beginning 90 days after the bill's enactment, any termination of farmed mink must be done in a manner that (1) meets the definition of *euthanasia* specified in Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations (i.e., the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress, or that utilizes anesthesia that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death); and (2) is classified as acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

This prohibition and these requirements do not preempt or limit any state law or regulation that is more restrictive. Further, any person in violation of this prohibition or these requirements is subject to civil penalties.

The bill also directs USDA to establish a payment program to compensate fur farm owners whose operations involve the farming of mink. Under the program, USDA must provide payments for (1) the reasonable costs incurred to comply with this bill, and (2) the market value of the portion of the farm involving mink farming (exclusive of the land). Fur farm owners may not use payment funds for any materials, supplies, labor costs, or activities associated with fur farm operations. Further, the owner must provide USDA with a permanent property easement that prohibits the operation of any fur farm on the easement area.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 10, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
- **Jun 1, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 1, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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.