

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1715

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration
of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 8, 2015

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins
in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival
of the Pilgrims.

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 “Mayflower Commemo-
5 rative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth,
2 Massachusetts, in 1620 has major significance in the
3 history of the United States.

4 (2) The Mayflower Compact laid the foundation
5 and moral framework for the future laws of the
6 United States.

7 (3) The General Society of Mayflower Dece-
8 dents' mission is—

9 (A) to tell the story of the Pilgrim's jour-
10 ney on the Mayflower in 1620, bringing with
11 them principles of civil and religious liberty to
12 America as memorialized in the Mayflower
13 Compact;

14 (B) to raise public awareness and increase
15 the public understanding of the importance of
16 the Pilgrim's lives and legacies; and

17 (C) to encourage a passion for history.

18 (4) A commemorative coin will bring national
19 and international attention to the lasting legacy of
20 this important event.

21 (5) The proceeds from a surcharge on the sale
22 of such commemorative coin will assist the financing
23 of educational, scholarship, and outreach programs.

1 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
4 shall mint and issue the following coins:

5 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
6 coins, which shall—

7 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

8 (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

9 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
10 alloy.

11 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 100,000
12 \$1 coins, which shall—

13 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

14 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

15 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

16 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
17 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
18 title 31, United States Code.

19 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
20 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
21 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

22 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

23 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
25 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the ar-
26 rival of the Pilgrims.

1 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
2 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

3 (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

4 (B) an inscription of—

5 (i) the mint date “2020”; and

6 (ii) the year “1620”; and

7 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,
8 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-
9 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

10 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
11 under this Act shall be—

12 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
13 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the General
14 Society of Mayflower Descendants; and

15 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
16 Committee.

17 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

18 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
19 Act shall be issued in proof quality and uncirculated qual-
20 ity.

21 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
22 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality
23 of the coins minted under this Act.

1 (c) PERIOD OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue
2 coins, to the public, minted under this Act only during
3 the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2020.

4 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

5 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act
6 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
7 of—

8 (1) the face value of the coins;

9 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with
10 respect to such coins; and

11 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
12 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
13 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

14 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
15 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
16 discount.

17 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
19 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
20 before the issuance of such coins.

21 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
22 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
23 sonable discount.

1 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
3 Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

4 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 gold
5 coin.

6 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 sil-
7 ver coin.

8 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of
9 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
10 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
11 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the General
12 Society of Mayflower Descendants for educational pur-
13 poses.

14 (c) AUDITS.—The General Society of Mayflower De-
15 scendants shall be subject to the audit requirements of
16 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with
17 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

18 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
19 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
20 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
21 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
22 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
23 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual
24 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
25 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
26 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-

1 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
2 this subsection.

3 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

4 The Secretary shall take such actions as may be nec-
5 essary to ensure that—

6 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
7 will not result in any net cost to the United States
8 Government; and

9 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
10 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-
11 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing
12 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including
13 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
14 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the
15 United States Treasury, consistent with sections
16 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States
17 Code.

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