

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2453

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration
of Mark Twain.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LONG, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins
in commemoration of Mark Twain.

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 “Mark Twain Com-
5 memorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Samuel Clemens—better known to the
2 world as Mark Twain—was a unique American voice
3 whose literary work has had a lasting effect on our
4 Nation’s history and culture.

5 (2) Mark Twain remains one of the best known
6 Americans in the world with over 6,500 editions of
7 his books translated into 75 languages.

8 (3) Mark Twain’s literary and educational leg-
9 acy remains strong even today, with nearly every
10 book he wrote still in print, including *The Adven-*
11 *tures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry*
12 *Finn*—both of which have never gone out of print
13 since they were first published over a century ago.

14 (4) In the past 2 decades alone, there have been
15 more than 100 books published and over 250 doc-
16 toral dissertations written on Mark Twain’s life and
17 work.

18 (5) Even today, Americans seek to know more
19 about the life and work of Mark Twain, as people
20 from around the world and across all 50 States an-
21 nually flock to National Historic Landmarks like the
22 Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT, and
23 the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Han-
24 nibal, MO.

1 (6) Mark Twain’s work is remembered today
2 for addressing the complex social issues facing
3 America at the turn of the century, including the
4 legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the eco-
5 nomic inequalities of the “Gilded Age”.

6 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

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

10 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000
11 \$5 coins, which shall—

12 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

14 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
15 alloy.

16 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000
17 \$1 coins, which shall—

18 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

20 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-
21 cent copper.

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

1 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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

5 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
7 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life
8 and legacy of Mark Twain.

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

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

12 (B) an inscription of the year “2016”; and

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

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

18 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
19 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of
20 the Mark Twain House and Museum; and

21 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
22 Committee.

23 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

24 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
25 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

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

4 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
5 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
6 period beginning on January 1, 2016.

7 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

11 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

14 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
15 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
16 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

20 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
6 Act shall include a surcharge of—

7 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

8 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

9 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of
10 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
11 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
12 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

13 (1) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark
14 Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut,
15 to support the continued restoration of the Mark
16 Twain house and grounds, and ensure continuing
17 growth and innovation in museum programming to
18 research, promote and educate on the legacy of
19 Mark Twain.

20 (2) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark
21 Twain Project at the Bancroft Library of the Uni-
22 versity of California, Berkeley, California, to support
23 programs to study and promote Mark Twain’s leg-
24 acy.

1 (3) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Cen-
2 ter for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, New
3 York, to support programs to study and promote
4 Mark Twain's legacy.

5 (4) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark
6 Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal,
7 Missouri, to preserve historical sites related to Mark
8 Twain and help support programs to study and pro-
9 mote his legacy.

10 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
11 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,
12 documents, and other data of each of the organizations
13 referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of sub-
14 section (b) as may be related to the expenditures of
15 amounts paid under such subsection.

16 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
17 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
18 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
19 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
20 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
21 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
22 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
23 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
24 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.

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